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on the underclass

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MYSTERY  
OF HISTORYDNA tests and  
the Wild West

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## Ministers snub 2-speed Europe

Lamont cools  
war of words  
with Germany

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN was still at odds with its key EC partners last night when finance ministers refused to back Norman Lamont's calls for a reform of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

At the end of an acrimonious five-hour meeting the ministers declared that they did not want to see a two-speed European economy. But it was clear that the divisions over the future of Europe were far from healed.

In an attempt to end Britain's war of words with Germany over the Government's handling of the sterling crisis and the future of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Lamont apologised to the Germans. He told a news conference: "There has been a lot of controversy. We have had our

differences and I am sorry if it has caused offence." Earlier Germany's finance minister, Horst Koehler, launched a stinging attack on British attempts to blame Germany for the sterling crisis. He made it clear that the German government and the Bundesbank were fed up with taking the blame for the chaos in the ERM. He accused Britain of "wild accusations and scapegoating".

German officials said that press reports linking the attitude of the Bundesbank with the Nazis had been thoroughly offensive. There was also anger over remarks made by British Cabinet ministers about Germany's role in supporting the French franc only a few days after watching sterling flounder.

In a statement issued after their meeting in Brussels, the ministers said: "Everyone present emphasised their opposition to the concept of a two-speed Europe and reiterated that the object of the Community was to proceed together."

Ministers who had met under the chairmanship of Mr Lamont also issued a robust affirmation of their faith in the European Monetary System which is at odds with the calls for reform which have been made both by the prime minister and Mr Lamont. The EMS, the statement said, is "key factor of economic stability and prosperity in Europe".

But a deep rift remained between the Chancellor and his 11 fellow finance ministers over where responsibility lay for the financial turmoil which recently saw the pound taken out of the ERM.

Several other ministers made clear their governments' view that the ERM might be further destabilised by attacks on its operations or squabbles between Britain and Germany and that Britain was the author of its own financial misfortunes.

"We're not here to discuss the failure of the European Monetary System," said one EC diplomat. Mr Lamont, said that Britain had not been isolated at the meeting, adding that other governments such as Spain and Italy shared

Britain's views. "This is not how the system is supposed to work," he said. "We're not blaming the Bundesbank, like some countries I could mention. The ERM is fine for us," said an Italian official — who was nevertheless unable to say when the Italian lira would re-enter the ERM.

In a further attempt to heal divisions over the future shape of Europe, John Major flies to Paris to day for talks with President Mitterrand and an assurance that Britain would not be isolated by a Franco-German axis. He will also meet Paul Schulte, Denmark's prime minister, hoping to reach a compromise that he can present to his backbenchers.

Denmark yesterday affirmed its commitment to a one-speed Europe. The Danish economy minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said: "I would like to stress that whatever happens is the policy of the Danish government to participate in the hard core of the ERM, even if it is made harder."

Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, faces a tough time when he addresses the conference in the debate on Europe.

The EC ministers' statement agreed that "reflection and analysis" on the operation of the ERM was necessary. Mr Lamont made clear that the Birmingham summit on October 16 would not take or announce any decisions which might affect international money markets.

Mr Henning Christensen, EC commissioner for finance and clearly reflecting the views of a majority which place present and future faith in the ERM, said that officials would be reflecting on "technicalities rather than the principles of the ERM". Some governments believe that the ERM will be safer from attacks on weak currencies if Maastricht looks set for ratification.

During an earlier discussion of the EC budget, six ministers questioned the British rebate, under which half of Britain's contribution to EC funds is returned.

Split confirmed page 2  
Leading article, page 15

## Irish interest rates up

IRELAND raised its key lending rates by three points yesterday in an effort to stabilise the punt, which was under severe attack from speculators amid continued rumours of a two-tier monetary system in Europe.

Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, ruled out a devaluation.

Defending the punt, page 19  
Comment, page 23

Smith victory, page 10  
Diary, page 14

Outrage halts celebration to honour  
50th birthday of Hitler's V2 rocket

Dubious honour: the German wonder weapon

THE celebrations commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Germany's notorious V2 rocket have been called off after a barrage of criticism from the country's politicians and fierce opposition from Britain.

Many senior German politicians described the plan as tasteless and irreverent, and with relations between Britain and Germany strained over the future of Europe, the government persuaded the German Aerospace Industry Federation to abandon the celebrations.

The event was being held to mark what was billed as "man's first step into space". The V2's inventor, Werner von Braun, led the US space

programme after the second world war.

But in Britain, where the V2 spread terror and killed thousands of civilians, anger over the commemoration matched that in Germany provoked by the unveiling of the "Bomber" Harris statue. Yesterday, Bob Ogle, author of *Doodlebugs and Rockers*, said the fact that the Germans had even considered celebrating the anniversary was absolutely appalling. "Werner von Braun might have been interested in space exploration, but it was he who went to Hitler and told him this was a weapon capable of destroying the British."

Over the weekend, Erich Riedl, the junior economics minister who was to be guest

of honour but who reluctantly withdrew, described the British reaction as "absurd hysteria". He was also angry at the German reaction.

Albrecht Müller, of the opposition Social Democrats, referring to the concentration camp inmates who died making 20,000 forced labourers were abused to death and considering the number of victims of this weapon, there is absolutely no reason to celebrate."

However, Karl Dersch, president of the aerospace federation, regretted that Germany's scientific achievements could not be honoured. "This achievement remains the foundation for worldwide space technology," he said.

Paras charged  
Six soldiers from The Parachute Regiment are to face criminal charges arising from several days of disturbances in Coalisland, Co Tyrone after one of their colleagues was maimed by an IRA bomb.

Iliescu wins  
President Iliescu of Romania looked set to retain power as early election results showed him comfortably beating Emil Constantinescu.

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# Cocaine ring smashed in £7m seizure by international agencies

By JOHN PHILLIPS AND BILL FROST

ONE of the world's largest and perhaps most successful drug-smuggling networks has allegedly been smashed in an international operation involving Britain and four other nations.

More than 200 suspects have been taken into custody in four countries and a substantial amount of money has been recovered from a lock-up garage in southeast London. Customs investigators seized cocaine worth an estimated £7 million. Two men were also arrested in Victoria, central London.

Italian police, who planned "Operation Green Ice" in collaboration with the US Drug Enforcement Agency, said yesterday that they had broken an alliance between the Mafia and Colombian traffickers intent on flooding Europe with cocaine and laundering the illicit profits. Thirty-four people were arrested in Italy, including two "kingpins" in the so-called Medellin cartel and several leading Mafia family members.

In the United States, 167 people were arrested, including a senior executive with Colombia's national bank. A DEA spokesman said yesterday: "We have got the big players, but there are still a few small fish to net. You can bank on a few more arrests to come."

The two men arrested in London, both believed to be

Italian Americans, were picked up on Friday by customs investigators working together with DEA officers. They are being questioned at an undisclosed location and further arrests are possible.

The international drug smuggling ring was said last night to have links to Francesco Di Carlo, the so-called godfather of the British Mafia, who was jailed for 25 years at the Central Criminal Court in 1987. Di Carlo and three of his confederates were convicted of smuggling heroin

custody and confiscating the drugs.

In addition to the arrests in Europe and the United States, most of them made last week, three men were taken into custody in Costa Rica. Police said a substantial amount of cash had also been recovered.

Nicola Mancino, Italy's interior minister, said yesterday: "This operation strikes the strongest organisation of its kind in the world. Its connections with the mafia are beyond doubt."

The cocaine smugglers were said to have worked on a "fail-safe" method of exporting the drug. Working out of Venezuela, the Mafia shipped massive consignments to destinations in Europe.

The organisation used intricate methods, including "safe" bank accounts in Austria, Switzerland and the US, a network of couriers and a small fleet of cargo ships.

Ostensibly bona fide companies were used to smuggle the drugs from South America and launder the proceeds.

Among those arrested in Italy during Green Ice was Jose "Tony the Pope" Duran. He was described by Italian police yesterday as "the most important distributor of cocaine in the world for the Colombian cartels".

Mr Duran, 38, alleged to be head of the Pereira cartel, was taken into custody at a bar close to the Spanish Steps in Rome last week. Also arrested was Pedro Felipe Villaquiran. The two had arrived in Rome together and Mr Duran was thought to have been going to introduce Villaquiran to his Mafia contacts.

DEA investigators last night confirmed they were questioning Rodrigo Polonca, a senior executive in the import-export department of Colombia's national bank. He was arrested in San Diego, California.

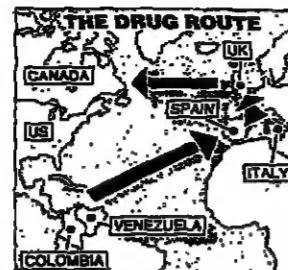
According to Italian officials Mr Polonca was involved in money laundering. He allegedly had links to the Colombian secret service and served as his country's representative on a number of international anti-drug commissions.

Alessandro Pansa, a senior Italian police officer in the squad set up to combat organised crime, said yesterday: "We have completely destroyed this network."

Mr Alessandro revealed that \$9 million (£5.26 million) in cash had already been seized as well as securities, jewels and property worth millions more. Five companies involved in trafficking or laundering had been shut down, among them a wine export business in Corleone, the small Sicilian hill town which was home to the fictional godfather.

Peter Secchia, the US ambassador to Italy, yesterday warned drug traffickers: We are watching and we are succeeding — so you had better be careful."

Britain yesterday became the first country to ratify a European accord on fighting the laundering of money from criminal activities such as drug trafficking. The accord, which has been signed by 20 countries, will come into effect after being ratified by three states.



and cannabis destined for Canada with a street value of £78 million.

The operation began in earnest on Friday with the arrest of four Sicilian businessmen in Palermo who drug investigators knew had organised a 300kg shipment of cocaine from South America to Europe. Undercover officers filmed the consignment of "frozen fish" being unloaded before taking the men into

A LORRY driver aged 83, was jailed for a year yesterday for killing two people when he overtook at the brow of a hill on a bend, hitting two cars and causing a pile-up.

Joseph William Parry of Newton, Cheshire, was said to have used his 17-ton lorry to intimidate other road users.

Mold Crown Court was told he had a casual job driving lorries despite his age, but was not licensed to drive the tipper truck and was breaking the speed limit when the accident happened.

He admitted causing the death of Michelle Colley, 20, a student of Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, and Paul Sculpher, 44, of Tonbridge-Kent, by reckless driving.

The crash happened on the A41 Chester to Whitewall road at Handley on November 28 last year.

Parry was given a two-year prison sentence, half of it suspended. Judge Daniel banned him from driving for six years and ordered that he should re-sit a test if he wants to drive again.

Parry's reckless and impatient driving was not a momentary lapse because he had been using the vehicle as an "instrument of bullying" other road users for a considerable distance, said the judge.

He had been "tailgating" a vehicle and pulled out to overtake in a grossly dangerous place in a large lorry which gave no chance to people in cars.

The judge said he had taken Parry's age into account and his good character and 60 years of driving without convictions. But prison was inevitable and no sentence could make up for the loss to two families, the judge said.

en Triangle in Southeast Asia. The Cuffiters are also alleged to have struck a deal with the Colombian cartels to exchange cocaine for heroin.

The first direct testimony about the mafia's attempts to become the exclusive supplier of cocaine in Europe was given in a hearing in Washington earlier this summer. Joseph Cuffaro, a Sicilian who began co-operating with the authorities after his arrest in 1988, told how he had arranged a wholesale purchase of cocaine for the Sicilian mob.

Cuffaro testified that he and Francesco Madonia, the reputed chief of the Palermo mafia, had given him permission to negotiate a 600-kilogram cocaine shipment from Colombia to Sicily for distribution throughout Europe.

Italian prosecutors hope Cuffaro's testimony will help to bring Madonia and his son Antonio to justice. But the Madonia clan is notoriously violent. When Judge Falcone was murdered, Italian newspapers received an anonymous call that the killing was a "wedding gift" for another Madonia son who had just married.

Drug agents estimate that the Cuntrera clan had supplied as much as half the heroin in the United States from their source in the Gold-

## How drug barons carved up the world

James Bone reports on the unholy alliance between Italy and Colombia

## Clubland chef left after clash

By ROBIN YOUNG

A CHEF who prepared Prince Charles's stag night dinner was driven out of a London club's kitchen when his new boss criticised his cooking and changed the menus, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The calm of White's Club in St James's, where many MPs are members, was riven by arguments about timed and fresh vegetables and the right way to make Scotch woodcock.

Stephen Harris, 44, who had worked at the club for 22 years, lasted only three days under the culinary command of Sean Thompson, the new head chef, before picking up his apron and walking out.

Mr Thompson was considered a catch by the club, because he had trained at the Savoy Hotel and worked with Anton Mosimann. But Mr Harris said Mr Thompson stirred up trouble in the kitchen and had accused him of stealing the best cuts of meat.

Mr Harris, of Poplar, east London, is claiming constructive dismissal from his £250-a-week job.

The case continues.

## Second ban hits Highlands

By KERRY GILL

THE wholesome world of Highland games, where cheating was once as unthinkable as the refusal of a dram, has been darkened by the second heavyweight champion to be banned within two months for failing a drugs test.

Yesterday the Scottish Games Association announced that Matt Sandford, 22, the reigning Scottish heavyweight champion, had been suspended for six months after testing positive for the anabolic steroid testosterone at the Crieff Highland Gathering in Tayside on August 15.

Sandford, an Australian, was examined for drugs on the same day that the association announced a similar ban on Joe Quigley, also Australian, who was found to have taken the drug Clenbuterol at the games in Balloch, near Loch Lomond, in July. Both men have appealed against their suspensions but, if the bans are upheld, they will be stripped of their titles and asked to return the prize money.

Sandford, who was told of the ban last week after returning to Australia, broke three national records at the Crieff games. He won five heavyweight events and was placed

first overall. The heavyweight class encompasses events such as tossing the caber, the shot put and throwing the hammer.

Games organisers will be privately relieved that no Scot from the association has ever been found to have taken drugs. The only other person to have been banned was Tjalling van den Bosch, a Dutchman, barred for life for using anabolic steroids. But the cloud of scandal has besmirched an ancient sport in which the participants were held up as icons of the glens.

Scottish Highland games usually begin in July and continue until the end of September. Those on the association circuit, in which cham-

pions can earn up to £350 a day, number between 20 and 25, although many smaller villages now have their own games. The best-known is the Braemar event, which attracts about 15,000 people, largely because of the royal presence. Others attract an average of between 2,000 and 3,000.

The suspensions apply only in Britain because there is no international federation for Highland games. Despite the ban here, Sandford and Quigley, the world and British heavyweight champion, will be able to take part in Highland games in the United States, Australia and Canada, for example. The men can also perform in gatherings in Scotland that are not under the association's umbrella.

A well-known performer can earn up to £3,000 in a season. Many look on the games as a pleasant way to spend the summer, travelling across the Highlands while earning extra money. Hospitality is an added attraction.

Brian Porteus, the association's operations director, said: "Performance-enhancing drugs have no place in sport and this council will continue its fight to catch those who use them in all sports. Drug-taking is not only against the rules, it is dangerous."

Quigley, banned in July after drug test

ers, Cromer roundly declared that Parliament and government shared responsibility



Taking it away: buyers were almost apologetic about helping break up a grade I listed timber-framed home

## Lorry driver, 83, killed two

A LORRY driver aged 83, was jailed for a year yesterday for killing two people when he overtook at the brow of a hill on a bend, hitting two cars and causing a pile-up.

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## Pitchford ghosts go under hammer

Pots and pans pur the sparkle into an auction at the Shropshire hall, reports Sarah Jane Checkland

IN THE Andy Warhol sale the cookie jars went through the roof. At the Asil Nadir auction it was scatter cushions from the collector's office. At Pitchford Hall, Shropshire, yesterday it was the turn of copper kitchenware, as buyers fought to pay up to seven times the estimate.

A single kettle fetched £570 while two small saucepans estimated at £200 put their buyers back £750. The Pitchford Hall *batture de cuisine*, as Christie's called it, provided the sparkle in an otherwise subdued auction.

Although the sale went well from the start because of the quality of the goods and their connections with the 500-year-old hall, buyers were almost apologetic at contributing to the break-up of an outstanding timber-framed building. After surviving so long, the listed house is the victim of an impetuous gambler on the late twentieth-century reinsurance market.

"It is quite different from the normal country house

sale, where someone has just died or just inherited," said Robert Holden, agent for the vendor. He was referring to the fact that following disastrous losses at Lloyd's, Caroline Colthurst, the house's owner, had tried hard to save her home for the nation.

Mr Holden had come up with a rescue package last month after urgent negotiations with the new English Heritage chairman, Jocelyn Stevens, and Lord Rothschild, the new chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

English Heritage would take over the care and custody of the house pending a longer-term solution, while the heritage fund paid for the £1.5 million. But David Mellor, the heritage minister who

resigned last week, quashed the plan on the grounds that the funds could be better used. "It is a Grade I listed building and will be very fully protected, whoever owns it," he said.

Mrs Colthurst has now escaped to Mexico and Mr Holden, says: "She is exhausted, having had her hopes raised and dashed so many times."

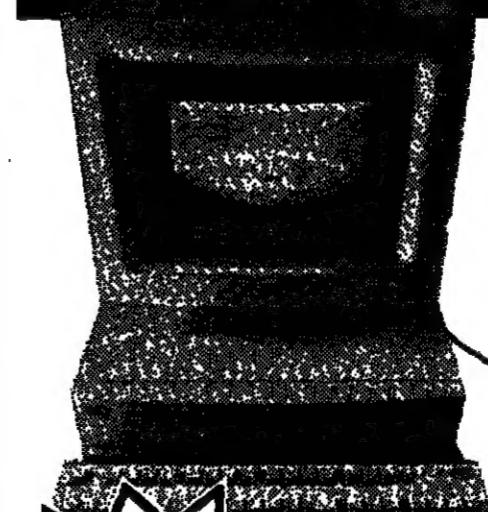
On Sunday night the agent managed to withdraw a number of family paintings and some of the estate in order to negotiate possible sales to museums in lieu of tax. The auction was also interrupted by many last-minute withdrawals as Mr and Mrs Colthurst decided to keep some of their possessions for their new home in a cottage on the estate.

Best sellers were items with historic associations. Some paid £240 for a paperclip "most probably the property of the fifth Earl of Roseberry", as the catalogue said. Dermot Chichester, the auctioneer, said this could be a record for a paperclip. A postbag in which Lord Liverpool had his letters delivered sold for £1,100 (estimate £400-600). Partridge Fine Art of Bond Street spent £38,000 (estimate £6,000-8,000) on a distinctly distressed Regency dining table, enhanced by a silver plaque saying "Mr Gladstone's dining table in Downing Street, sometimes used for Cabinet, given after his death to Lord Roseberry, 1898".

Tonight Mr Holden will ring Mrs Colthurst in Mexico and tell her that, considering the recession, the sale is going very well. After the auction it will be the turn of the empty shell. For sale, at Knight Frank & Rutley, one Elizabeth manor house complete with unknown quantity of ghosts.

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## Blacks and Asians worst hit by heart disease deaths

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE poor health of Britain's ethnic minorities is to be targeted by the government in an attempt to reduce the number of deaths from heart disease and strokes, and the high incidence of tuberculosis and mental illness among black and Asian communities.

Deaths from heart disease are 36 per cent higher among Asian men and 46 per cent higher among Asian women than among the general population. Strokes kill 76 per cent more Afro-Caribbean men than the average and more than twice as many Afro-Caribbean women, according to the annual report of the chief medical officer, Kenneth Calman, published yesterday.

Virginia Bottomley, health secretary, said that she was arranging meetings between NHS managers and ethnic group leaders to take action. "It is clear this section of the population does have some particular health needs," she said. "I want the NHS to be more precisely tuned in to these needs."

Dr Calman, presenting his first annual report, said that

poverty was only one factor in the poorer health of ethnic minorities. Cultural and ethnic factors also played their part. Schizophrenia is three to six times more common among Afro-Caribbeans living in England than among those in Jamaica. The report says that the illness may be triggered by stress caused by racism and unemployment.

Asians are less likely than the average to be admitted to

hospital or to consult their GPs with psychiatric illness. This may be because they are more reluctant to seek help for mental health problems, the report says.

The high rate of heart disease and strokes cannot be explained in terms of the conventional risk factors of cholesterol, smoking and high blood pressure, it says. Smoking among most ethnic groups is well below that in the white population. But the high rate of diabetes, twice that in the general population, may provide a clue. The report says there is evidence that Asians are more prone to a physiological disturbance causing insulin resistance which can lead to coronary heart disease and diabetes.

Tuberculosis is 25 times more common among Asians than the white population. Although the disease is declining, the decline has been slower among Asians. In the first six months of 1988, 40 per cent of patients notified with tuberculosis were of Asian origin.

Black and Asian mothers

are at higher risk of having malformed babies. However, cot deaths are more than twice as likely to occur among the babies of UK-born mothers than among those who are Asian-born.

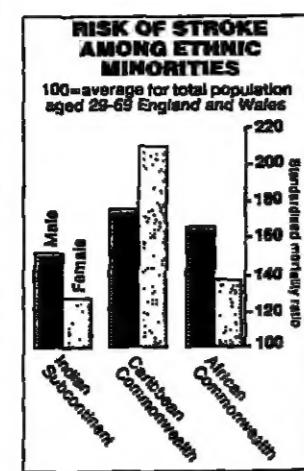
Dr Calman said that there

was

increasing recognition of the need to "eliminate discrimination within the NHS". Ethnic minorities may have missed out on services because they were inappropriate or insensitive, or not targeted properly, he said. "We need to involve ethnic communities in helping us decide what is most appropriate."

■ HIV-positive tests among homosexual men fell 10 per cent last year, the report says. The number of AIDS cases among homosexual men remained stable after a sharp rise the previous year. This did not mean that the AIDS epidemic was nearing its peak, Dr Calman said. Evidence of an increase in rectal gonorrhoea among men suggested that the rate of HIV transmission may still be increasing.

■ On the State of the Public Health 1991; HMSO, £14.50



Family first: Lynn Redgrave (right) and her daughter Kelly Clark, 22, began filming yesterday for "Calling the Shots", a BBC media mini-series to be shown early next year. It is the first time they have filmed together

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### Charity trustees 'in dark'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

ALMOST two thirds of charity trustees in England and Wales are unaware that they are trustees and could be financially liable if their organisation became bankrupt, according to a report published today by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Fewer than half receive information about their organisation's role and their responsibilities as trustees, and fewer than a fifth are given training, the report, *On Trust*, says.

Tim Darlington, the council's head of management development, said: "Trustees sometimes do not recognise they are trustees because they might see themselves as committee members or as members of a board.

"If the charity went bankrupt and the trustees had not taken proper care and attention, they might find themselves financially liable. If charitable funds were being used for non-charitable purposes, they could be required to refund that money."

The council is calling for comprehensive training so that trustees may better understand the legal and financial framework in which charities operate.

Winfred Tunim, L&T section, page 10

### Brothers Roux in the soup

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE new edition of the *Good Food Guide*, published today, drops the Roux brothers' restaurants back in the soup. The Roux Le Gavroche in Mayfair, London, and Waterside Inn at Bray in Berkshire are the only two restaurants in Britain awarded three stars by Michelin.

A couple of years ago Le Gavroche was triumphantly acquitted of having a fly-infested, unclean kitchen. Now the Waterside stands accused of serving meals that are not up to snuff for a top-rated restaurant.

Last year the Waterside, where a three-course meal can cost up to £80, was given a *Good Food Guide* rating of four out of five, described as representing "excellent cooking". This year the rating drops to 3\*, which means "very good cooking", though a "particularly fine example" in that lower category. That means the restaurant is no longer included in the book's list of "top-rated restaurants", confined to those thought worthy of scores of 4 or 5.

The Waterside is run by Michel Roux, the more suave and romantic of the television cooking duo, whose books on cooking have been best-sellers. The text of the Waterside's entry in the new edition of the guide, edited by Tom Jaine, comments: "This is a restaurant that aspires to the highest, but often does not meet it".

Le Gavroche, run by Albert Roux and his son Michel junior, is among three restaurants which retain the *Guide's* top rating of five.

Leading article, page 15

## Radio 4 fans threaten long wave of protest

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

RADIO 4 listeners are threatening "militant action", including a ritual destruction of television licences and an occupation of Broadcasting House, in protest at plans to eject the station from its long-wave frequency, depriving many listeners of programmes such as *The Archers* and *Woman's Hour*.

Campaigners are angry at corporation proposals to put a 24-hour news service on Radio 4's long-wave frequency. Radio 4 will then be available only on FM, which is poor or unavailable in some parts of the country. Nick MacKinnon, the campaign organiser, said: "We are planning a day of action for next week when we shall cut up our television licences and send them to Broadcasting House."

The group plans a protest march, ending with a sit-in at Broadcasting House, in central London. It is demanding the resignation of Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC's board of governors. "Mr Hussey's job is to ascertain what the public interest is," Mr MacKinnon said. "The man has failed in this matter and will fail in other matters. We want him to go, whether they take off Radio 4 or not."

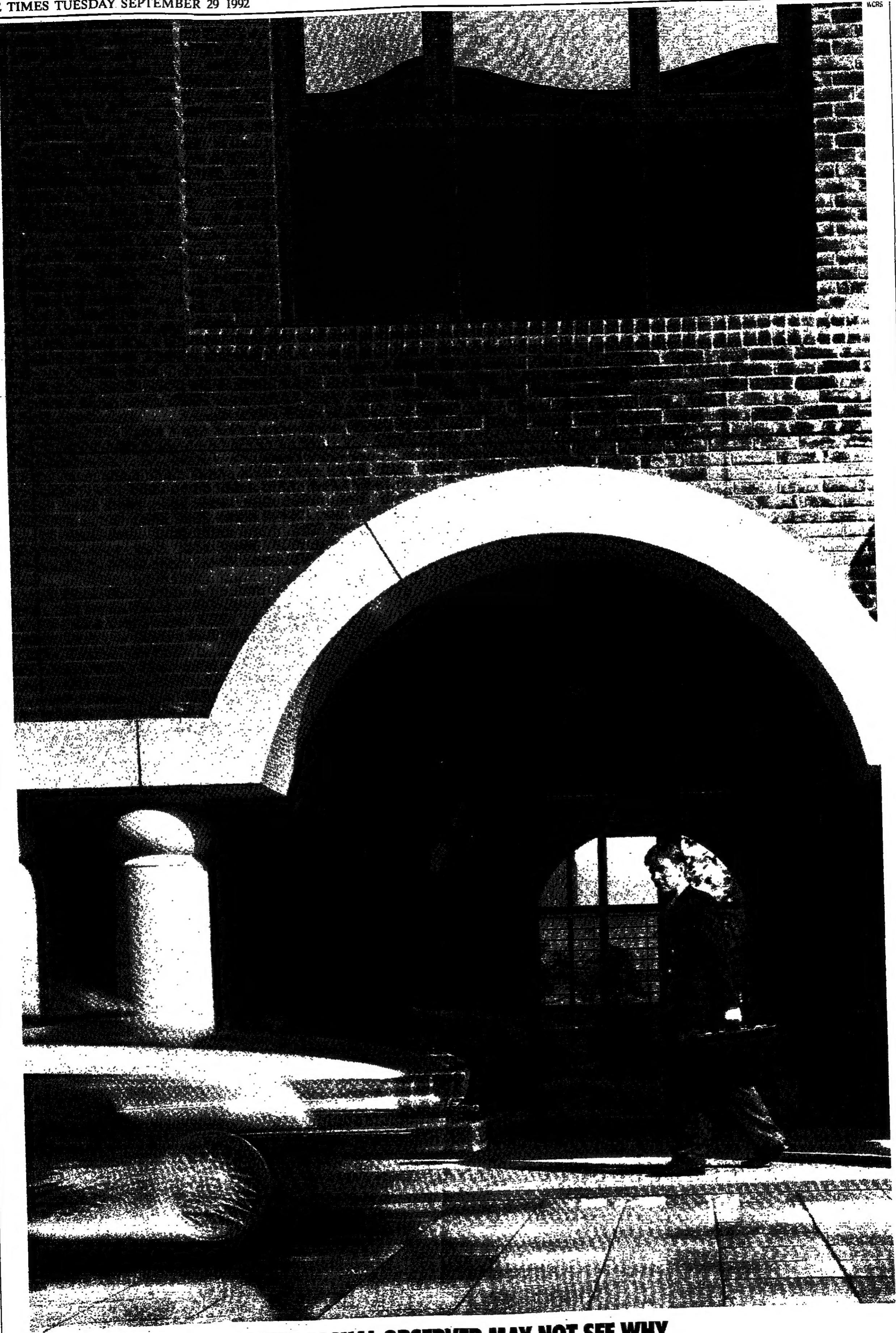
Mr MacKinnon, 29, a mathematics teacher from Winchester, Hampshire, said: "They don't pay a licence fee."

Many are suggesting far more violent tactics than mine," he said. "It's not surprising—they are being given life sentence by being deprived of Radio 4. They are going to have silence for the rest of their lives."

Among the complainants are several prisoners, who are not allowed to listen to FM radio in case they monitor police broadcasts. Other protesters include sailors and lorry drivers, who will be unable to pick up Radio 4 on the Continent. Campaigns have also started among more than 500,000 Radio 4 listeners in Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Scandinavia.

The BBC said yesterday that the decision was unlikely to be reversed. Sandra Chalmers of Radio 4, said that fears were exaggerated. "I think most of them could pick up the service on FM if they tried. You just need to tune your set a bit more carefully."

She said that 96 per cent of Radio 4's eight million listeners could receive FM, and the figure should rise to 98 per cent by 1994. She was not sympathetic to listeners abroad: "They don't pay a licence fee."



**THE CASUAL OBSERVER MAY NOT SEE WHY,  
WHEN THE 7 SERIES HAS TWICE BEEN VOTED BEST DIRECTOR'S CAR,  
BMW HAVE ALREADY MOVED ON...**

## Lord Taylor warns new jailing rules may backfire

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, will warn judges this week that unless they take steps to cut the lengths of sentences, the new provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 will backfire and lead to a large increase rather than a fall in the prison population.

His advice, to be issued in a practice direction on Thursday when the act comes into force, is the clearest sign yet of the uncertainty within the criminal justice system over whether it will work.

The act creates a new statutory sentencing framework founded on the twin principles of a shift away from custody for minor offenders and longer, tougher sentences for violent and sexual offenders. The hope is that a spin-off will be a

after serving a third of their sentence. But judges and offenders have not known the date of release.

Under the act, it would be clear both to judges and offenders how long they must serve. Offenders may be released halfway through the sentence but would be liable to recall for the rest if they reoffended. Unless judges took into account the longer period offenders will serve and "adjust their sentences accordingly", the prison population would rise, Lord Justice Farquharson said yesterday.

He said that the Court of Appeal had a vital role in ensuring the purpose of the act was met. Lord Taylor's practice direction was aimed at ensuring judges had regard to the consequences of their sentencing so that "they don't pass longer sentences, or rather that the effect of what they do has the effect of passing longer sentences under the provisions of the new act".

Government officials have calculated that parole changes could increase the prison population by 1,400. But they are estimating a net cut in the population of 3,500 by 1995 through fewer offenders being sent to custody.

Lord Justice Farquharson, and Mr Justice Judge, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board's criminal committee, both emphasised that judges had no problems with the aims of the act: they had always tried their best to keep offenders out of custody where possible. The act further developed that philosophy, only with more "stringent" conditions. "They are very committed to it." But some judges were anxious about the wording of the act, and there could be inconsistencies in the first few months over interpretation of unclear wording. However, he said it would not mean sentencing "chaos".

Law Times, pages 27, 28



Farquharson: new attitude is needed

reduction in the prison population. The big question is whether judges will go along with the new principles.

Yesterday Lord Justice Farquharson, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board, said concern about the impact on the prison population was "causing greatest anxiety".

"It would be tragic if, as a result of this act, the prison population went up when the whole purpose and thrust is to reduce it, and that is what the judges' approach will be."

He said that the act required a "change in attitude". Until now, sentences have borne little relation to time served. At present, offenders with remission may be released on parole



Paws for thought: David Appleby, a pet behavioural counsellor, treating a patient at the Scarsdale veterinary clinic in Derby. He examines animals' backgrounds in an effort to find the root of their bad behaviour (Julia Llewelyn Smith writes).

Mr Appleby also offers free 90-minute sessions at the RSPCA's psychological clinic in Leicester, which has treated more than a hundred pets since it opened earlier this month. Mr Appleby, a visiting counsellor at the Cambridge University vet school, discusses the animals' upbringing with their owners. Cases have included a

dog that slept on its owners' bed and bit them every time they turned over, and another that prevented its owners going on holiday by howling every time it was left alone.

"It's a question of looking into the animal's history to see when the problem developed," Mr Appleby said. "For example, a cat that is spraying everywhere may be doing so because it is insecure. To cure this we would maybe make its cat flap

smaller, so it feels more secure and safe. We have to gradually rebuild its confidence.

"A dog that is allowed to sit in its owner's lap or keep a toy after play may think it is a dominant dog and has a right to be aggressive."

The RSPCA has introduced the counselling, which includes follow-up telephone advice, to save difficult animals from being put down. Difficulty with behaviour is the main

reason for dogs under two being destroyed. One in five British dogs is estimated to have behavioural difficulties.

Mr Appleby said that not all badly-brought-up dogs would show it. "You can do all the wrong things with pets and get away with it, but sometimes some will be affected. It's embarrassing if your dog misbehaves when friends come round."

The RSPCA said: "I know the thought of a dog lying on a couch, describing its dreams, sounds ridiculous but this really is invaluable help for so many of them."

## Appeal judges given training

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

THE most senior judges who deal with criminal cases, those in the Court of Appeal, will have a training session this week on the new sentencing provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The move is the last in what has been one of the biggest training exercises for the judiciary in England and Wales for any legislation.

More than 500 circuit judges, recorders and assistant recorders have each attended at least one training session on

the philosophy of the act, which creates the first statutory framework for sentencing. The key points include:

- Short-term prisoners to serve at least half sentence.
- More use of punishment in the community.
- Combination order combines probation and unpaid work in the community.
- Maximum penalty for non-domestic burglary cut from 14 years to ten.
- Parole Board rather than home secretary to decide on release of those serving discretionary life sentences.

## £220m plan unveiled for Games arena

By RONALD FAUX

PLANS for a £220 million arena for central Manchester, a key component in the city's bid to hold the Olympic Games in 2000, were published yesterday.

The project will go ahead whether or not Manchester is awarded the games and is the central feature of the Victoria station regeneration. It covers a multi-purpose indoor sports arena, seating up to 16,400, with a 46-storey "crystal" tower incorporating office accommodation and five-star hotel.

At 650ft, the tower will dominate the entrance to the city from the northeast and rank among the tallest buildings in the region. The distinctive architecture of the Victoria station will be retained in the planning application submitted by Vector Investments and the British Railways Board.

The arena has been earmarked as the venue for the Olympic gymnastic competitions but will be used for other international sport and leisure activities, including ice events, basketball and hockey. The complex will be served by British Rail and Metrolink.

## Ministers blamed for council reform delays

Commission complains targets are unrealistic, Douglas Broom says

**T**he first new councils to be created in England for two decades are likely to start work a year later than planned because the local government review ordered by ministers has still not begun, two months after its official launch.

Some of the 12 commissioners appointed by the government to carry out the re-organisation blame ministers for insisting on launching the review in August without allowing time to recruit the staff to carry it out. Although work on the comprehensive re-drawing of local government structures was supposed to begin on August 3, the commission, chaired by Sir John Banham, still has only nine staff, all seconded from the civil service.

Martin Eastall, its chief executive, is not due to start work until Thursday and the commission admits that it will be November before most of the 45 staff it says it needs to carry out the review have been recruited. Commissioners say that, without staff to begin work, the government's timetable for completing the review of England, excluding London and the metropolitan areas, within five years will be impossible.

Draft plans for the future of the Isle of Wight, the first area to be reviewed, are due to be published before Christmas with the final plan due next April. John Redwood, the local government minister, who set the commission's timetable in July, has said he expects the first local authority created by the review to start work in April 1994.

One commissioner said: "There is now very little chance of that deadline being achieved. The timetable is frankly too tight. We are supposed to produce our

draft plan for the Isle of Wight by December 21 but I cannot see how it can possibly be done.

"We have made representations to ministers but they just don't seem to be listening. We have told them the difficulties but they seem to think we can just get on without staff or support."

Other commissioners have told *The Times* that they are unable to begin work in full and have been holding meetings with individual councils while unable to do more than take notes of the conversations and invite written submissions.

**O**ne commissioner said: "We have no staff of our own to process submissions when they come in. We are dependent on seconded civil servants who, although they are very good, might be gone in a month's time."

Work was due to begin yesterday on reviews of Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire but councils in the areas say they have been told to write in with their ideas. In order to begin work in Derbyshire, the commission had to call in Ernst & Young's management consultancy to carry out the review there.

Michael Tremberth, the commission's spokesman, who is on secondment from the agriculture ministry, said he was confident the commission could stick to the government's timetable.

## 1,000 helpers

Nearly 1,000 people have contacted police hunting the man who raped an eight-year-old girl near Basildon, Essex, last week. Police said they were following up all information and hoped soon to issue a photo-fit picture of the attacker.

## Trout taken

Barbed wire fences and security guards failed to halt poachers who took 8,000 trout from fish farms at Wansford, Humberside.

## Toy siege

Police wearing bullet-proof vests mounted an armed siege after a 14-year-old boy chased his mother with a toy pistol yesterday. Neighbours at Chippenham, Wiltshire, failed to recognise Frankie Cavacuti and police feared he was a real gunman.

## Hunger strike

Women inmates at Bullwood Hall open prison in Hockley, Essex, have started a hunger strike over conditions. The Home Office confirmed that 28 refused to eat breakfast yesterday.

## Rider fined

International three-day event rider Mark Todd, who runs Andrew Lloyd Webber's equestrian centre at Watership Down, was fined £100 at Andover, Hampshire, yesterday for driving a horsebox with an insecure load. He pleaded guilty.

## Knife rape

A 31-year-old woman was raped at knife point in a car after she hitched a ride in east London early yesterday.

## Cemetery attack

Five skinheads attacked a 20-year-old woman in a graveyard at Darlington, co. Durham, at the weekend.

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## 'Sexist' farmers dig in

By DAVID YOUNG

AS a job description, "farmerette" has never caught on. There is no record of any pub offering farmerette lunches and folk singers never break into rousing renditions of "I am a jolly farmerette and I plough the fields all day".

However, the Irish National Ploughing Association is determined to continue using the term, which it has employed for the past 40 years to describe female farm workers, even if it has incurred the wrath of Ireland's Council for the Status of Women.

The country's biggest agricultural show has been accused of sexism for sticking to the description. The organisers of the national ploughing championships have received a formal protest from feminist organisations for continuing to classify women entrants in

an annual contest for Ireland's top ploughwoman as farmerettes.

Carmel Foley, chief executive of the women's council, called the offending word "belittling, sexist, outdated" and said that it did not reflect the role of women in farming.

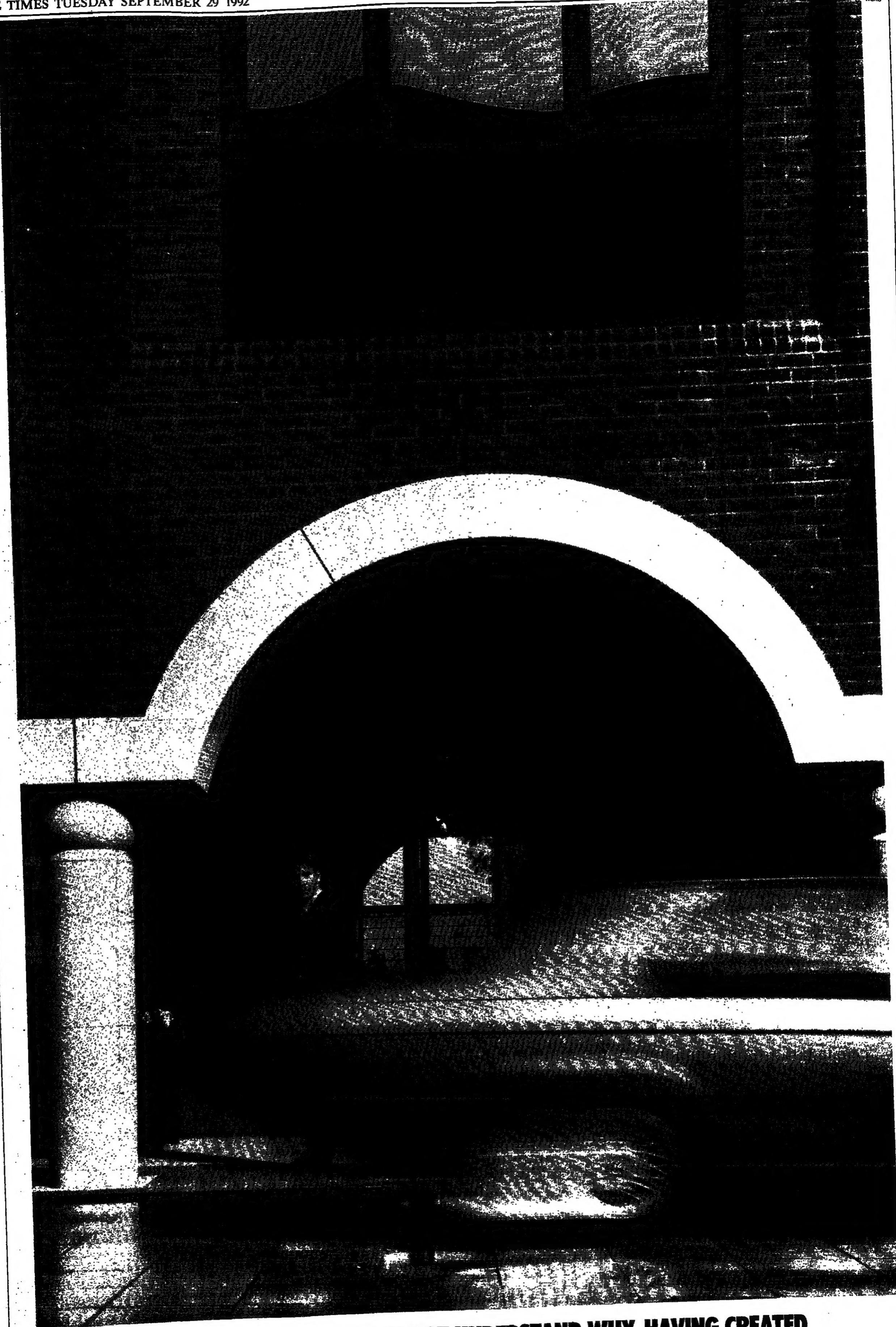
The protest seems unlikely to succeed. Anna McHugh, Irish National Ploughing Association managing director, said: "We have no intention of changing the name of the competition." When coined the word for the entry forms in the early 1950s has been long forgotten. The winner will take the title Queen of the Plough, a crystal glass trophy and £150. Until 10 years ago, she received an extra £100 on her wedding day if she married before the age of 25.

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The advanced electronics are just one of the features that has engine experts gazing in awe at what's under the bonnet.

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Precision, too, comes from the individual microphones that listen in to the combustion in each cylinder. This means the engine can run on as lean a mixture as possible, explaining how the more powerful 3.0 litre 8 cylinder engine actually uses less petrol than the frugal 6 cylinder version.

Ingenuity doesn't cease when you take the wheel. The computer controlled 5 speed gear-box can actually adapt to your driving style. You can even order double glazed windows that shrink wind noise to a passing whir. Or BMW's Parking Distance Control whose radar warns you if you are about to reverse into a hidden bollard.

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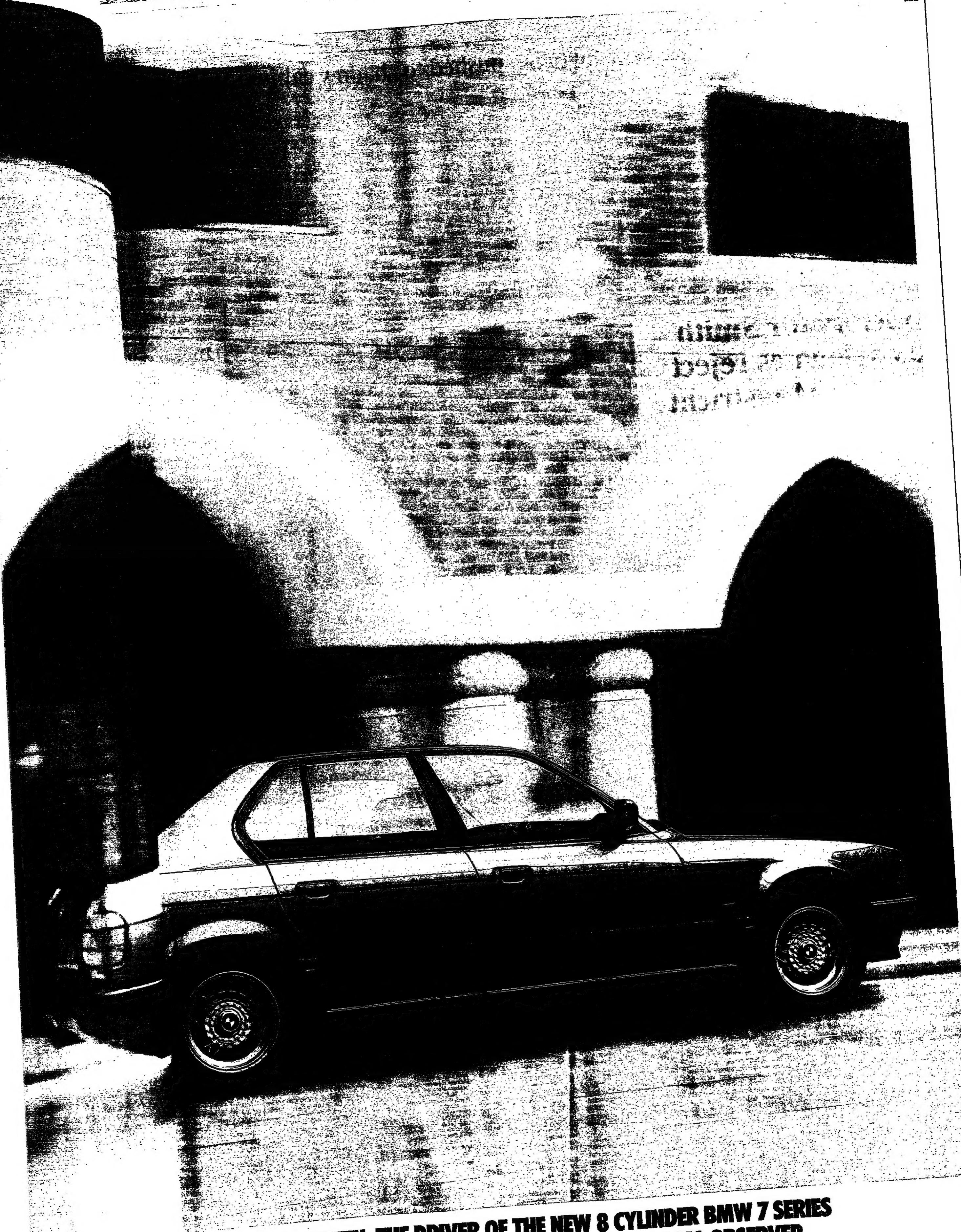
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## Gould jumps after five years of being pushed to shadow cabinet margins



Gould: found it hard to keep doubts to himself

Labour's pre-conference national executive meeting on Sunday ended uncomfortably early for Bryan Gould. Rather than dragging on as usual well into the afternoon, it broke up at about 1pm, two hours before Mr Gould was due to appear at a Winter Gardens fringe meeting.

Mr Gould had written his resignation speech the day before and had intended to go straight from the NEC to the meeting and announce that he was leaving the shadow cabinet. Out of courtesy he had planned to tell John Smith as he left the NEC.

The blunder left him with a dilemma. From the moment he decided to go last Wednesday, Mr Gould was determined to resign on his own terms. Telling Mr Smith at 1pm would have meant the news getting out before Mr Gould was ready. He wanted to jump, not to be pushed.

Mr Smith casually approached Mr Gould at the end of the NEC meeting and asked about his speaking intentions. "I'm not

going to have to sack you, am I?" Bryan? he asked. Feeling rather embarrassed Mr Gould replied: "No, you won't have to sack me."

It was the truth, but Mr Gould did not feel good about withholding the whole story. Tony Benn guessed what was in the air when Mr Gould told him he would soon have something of "personal significance" to say.

Mr Gould went to his hotel room, wrote a letter to Mr Smith, and came down to the foyer to post it as he left for the Winter Gardens. A few eagle eyes had seen the envelope; the word inevitably reached Mr Smith. As Mr Gould prepared to speak, a Smith aide, Mike Elrick, appeared with his reply. By the time Mr Gould got to his feet the news had broken.

The possibility of resignation had

been at the back of Mr Gould's mind since July's leadership election, when his objections to Labour's economic and European policies were laid bare. Tenaciously independent, he was always going to it to find a way to keep his doubts to himself. The prospect may have been behind his decision to turn down Mr Smith's offer of the education and health portfolios after the shadow cabinet elections.

Mr Gould hoped he might be accommodated at last Wednesday's meetings of the national executive and shadow cabinet, after which Mr Smith had said he would insist on collective responsibility. It could have been a face-saver: a referendum did not appear to be ruled out for all time. Unfortunately for Mr Gould, at the

NEC his allies moved an amendment: stating that the "door should be left open" for a British referendum. It was crushed, leaving Mr Gould without a figleaf.

The day was cast for Mr Gould at the lengthy shadow cabinet discussion which followed. Mr Gould was by no means on his own. David Blunkett, Michael Meacher, Jack Straw, Chris Smith and Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, joined him in the camp wanting to keep a referendum option. Derek Foster, the chief whip, is also reported to have spoken of its attractions. But at the end Mr Smith was able to point to a big majority in his favour.

After that Mr Gould's mind was made up. He rejected the course taken by Tony Benn of remaining in the cabinet and shadow cabinet during the 1970s and early 1980s but feeling free to air his own differences.

Mr Gould did not go immediately since he did not want to disrupt Mr Smith's Commons debut. The resignation ended a five-year per-

iod that saw Mr Gould gradually pushed to the margins within a Labour machine that found his divergence hard to stomach.

I had all seemed so different in 1987. Mr Gould had been campaigns co-ordinator during the general election. Labour MPs rewarded him by electing him top of the poll in the shadow cabinet elections that autumn. Mr Gould immediately asked Neil Kinnock for the job of shadow chancellor. The other candidate was John Smith. Mr Hattersley, the deputy leader, wanted to hand over to Mr Smith and not Mr Gould.

Mr Kinnock gave Mr Smith the shadow chancellor's job and made Mr Gould shadow trade and industry secretary, putting him in charge of the most important of the seven policy review groups with a wide-ranging brief across industrial and economic policy.

It was during the preparation of his group's paper that things began to go wrong. John (now Lord) encouraged to stand.

He did so with enthusiasm, standing for the leadership and deputy leadership. It was his pro-devaluation line, making it difficult for him ever to work for Mr Smith, that did for him then — and finally did for him this week.

## Victory for Smith as delegates reject vote on Maastricht

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

### EUROPE

THE Labour conference yesterday crowned John Smith's pro-European quest by emphatically rejecting demands for a referendum on the Maastricht blueprint for economic and political union.

Only 24 hours after Bryan Gould resigned from the shadow cabinet in protest at the new leader's refusal to countenance a plebiscite, delegates enhanced Mr Smith's authority and highlighted Mr Gould's isolation by swinging overwhelmingly behind their new leader's support for the treaty and the European exchange rate mechanism.

The scale of the defeat for the pro-referendum lobby inside the Labour party cast doubt on Mr Gould's claims earlier in the day that he had the support of up to eight members of the shadow cabinet and 100 Labour MPs. Mr Smith was said to regard the

outcome as a "staggering success" and as a "humiliation" for his opponents. It was the culmination of a strategy that has already seen the national executive committee and the shadow cabinet falling into line behind Mr Smith's decision not to allow the sterling crisis to deflect Labour from its European goals.

Mr Gould said later that the conference had made a "great mistake", but vowed to continue his campaign to put the issues squarely before the public.

The vote followed a surprisingly subdued debate in which only Tony Benn, the veteran left-winger and former cabinet minister, roused the hall with an impassioned plea for "the biggest constitutional change this century" to be put to the

country. With Mr Gould looking on silently from the platform, Mr Benn said that the treaty transferred ancient, hard-won freedoms from the electors to commissioners and bureaucrats.

With the big unions lining up behind Mr Smith's support for the treaty, Mr Benn was rewarded with more cheers than votes. Delegates backed a concerted attempt by the platform, led by Gerald Kaufman, the former foreign affairs spokesman, to crush the rebels. Mr Kaufman said that Maastricht was the Tories' problem and that the conference should not turn it into Labour's problem. A referendum would be a diversion playing into the hands of the government.

Supporters of a referendum argued that the British people should not be denied a right exercised by the Danes, the French and the Irish. A gulf was opening up between Europe's leaders and its peoples and a failure to hold a public debate and dispel ignorance about the treaty risked bringing the political system into disrepute. A vote in the Commons would be controlled by the whips.

Opponents of a plebiscite argued that it would plunge the party into a war that it would lose. The terms of a referendum would be set by the prime minister and the ensuing debate would inflame nationalistic passions at home. A "no" result would damage the interests of other European socialist parties.

Glyn Ford, leader of the Labour MEPs, said: "The last time we went around this track almost 20 years ago we were told would be a healing process. Yet the scars are still there." A rejection of the Maastricht treaty would have the Tory tabloids "delirious with joy and boost the racists, nationalists and xenophobes". A "yes" vote would be seen as an endorsement of Mr Major's "narrow, partial, part-time vision of Europe".

Malcolm Craine, from Bovis, pressed delegates to support an emergency motion calling for a referendum, accusing the government of misleading the public when Britain joined the ERM two years ago. "They had people believing we would have money pouring out of our ears." He said that some in the Labour party had jumped on the Conservative ERM bandwagon in an effort to become more "Tory than the Tories".

Labour should not allow the treaty to be ratified unless it had been renegotiated "to remove the economics of mass unemployment and weakening of trade unions." He said that John Smith and Scottish Labour MPs had backed a referendum on devolution for Scotland. "If it's good enough for Scotland, it's good enough for us all."

Many Labour leaders believe that the firm commitments made in 1989 to raising child benefit and state pensions were a mistake since by last April the Tories had themselves increased child benefit, while the earlier large public sector surplus had turned into a large deficit.

In one respect Labour can never win since it is seen as the party of government spending and higher taxation. But the new policy-making machinery is intended to ensure that all policy pledges are related to their overall spending and tax consequences and that promises made two or three years before an election are not set in stone and can be changed. This shift in policy-making, rather than the headline attacks on the Tories, is likely to be the lasting legacy of the conference.



Benn: earned more cheers than votes

## Tory-bashing fills conference vacuum

### RIDDELL IN BLACKPOOL

DO NOT expect to learn much this week about where John Smith is going to lead the Labour party. The government's troubles over Europe and the economy have presented party leaders with an irresistible target, which they have not resisted.

Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Gerald Kaufman yesterday made the most of John Major's misfortunes and the attack will be taken up this afternoon by Mr Smith. He will contrast the government's wobbles of the past fortnight with his consistently pro-European position.

Bryan Gould's resignation now looks likely to be just a 24-hour distraction. After last April's defeat this could have been a tricky conference with the possibility of recriminations. There would have been little new or positive to say in view of Mr Smith's caution about rushing into policy commitments. The vacuum has been filled by Tory-bashing.

None of yesterday's speakers had much of substance to offer. Mr Brown set out broad themes: a national recovery programme, a new economics of partnership and co-operation, as well as proposals to improve the workings of the exchange rate mechanism. Today Mr Smith will talk about the need for a more activist government, a theme which seems to be attracting support on both sides of the Atlantic as the Bush and Major administrations appear passive in face of the continued recession.

The absence of a detailed alternative does not mean that the leadership team is complacent and accepts that "one more heave" will be enough. Party officials point to the new aims and values document, *Agenda for Change*, as a pointer to where Labour is going.

Like most such documents, it is long on vague generalities and short on specifics. But, at least, it opens up questions about changing the role of government and altering the balance between consumers and entrenched interests.

For once it is also worth reading the fine print. The appendix sets out the proposed new policy-making

ON THE final Monday of the election campaign, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, close friends and allies, had a quick coffee on the station concourse at Euston before leaving on separate trains for tours of the Midlands. They discussed what joker would suit each better when they met up again at an evening rally in Birmingham.

Then someone suggested that within a week they might, if the polls were right, be ministers rather than shadow spokesmen, enduring the frustrations of Opposition. They both paused, struck by the enormity of that prospect.

The polls were, of course, wrong, and both were for a time exhausted and depressed. But they soon bounced back to support John Smith in his leadership campaign and to argue for further changes in Labour's policies and organisation if it is to win power.

Their victories in yesterday's elections to the national executive — at the expense of Dennis Skinner, the standard bearer of the hard-left — confirmed that they will be at the centre of the Labour party's changes over the next few years.

Mr Brown and Mr Blair, aged 41 and 39 respectively, are popularly linked as the inseparable twins of Labour's new generation. Unusually, this is not just media hype but reflects a genuine friendship. They talk frequently, developing their ideas together and ensuring that they do not clash, either in what they say or in standing against each other.

But they are very different personalities. Mr Brown often

presents an austere image of the Scottish prophet prophesying doom as he delivers rapid-fire speeches in his deep voice. He is witty and more subtle. Mr Blair is more a product of the television age, generally smiling and appearing as the reasonable, human face of the Labour party.

Their friendship developed after they first entered the Commons at the 1983 general election. Both, on the soft or Tribune left, revolted from the excesses of Bennism and were willing supporters of Neil Kinnock's attempts to modernise the party.

One of their first parliamentary experiences was serving under Mr Smith on the party's team on the committee stage of a further instalment of the Tories' trade union legislation. This began close links between the two and Mr Smith. Messrs Brown and Blair

then gradually ascended the ladder as junior spokesmen, impressing by their assiduity and their ability to pick issues which attracted media interest. Mr Brown was elected to the shadow cabinet in 1987, followed a year later by Mr Blair.

Mr Brown and Mr Blair concentrated on economic issues and, as trade and industry and employment spokesmen respectively from 1989 until this summer, they played a large part in the far-reaching changes in the party's policies of that period, notably the shift in attitudes on public ownership and in relations with the trade unions. They also proved to effective performers on television, arousing the envy of some of their colleagues.

After the April election defeat, they jointly decided to back Mr Smith in the party's leadership election and, although some of their friends hoped one might stand for deputy, they were persuaded by him that Margaret Beckett should be a candidate. They were closely involved in pushing for a mass membership party and for the new theme of Labour as the attacker of vested interests. They have also helped Mr Smith this month in sticking to his pro-EC line and resisting calls for a referendum.

Yesterday's success in the national executive elections means that they are now not just Mr Smith's closest allies but also the leading candidates to succeed him.

So far they have avoided competing against each other, but they may at some stage have to decide which of them stands for the leadership.

## Brown calls for tough curbs on currency speculators

By JILL SHERMAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

GORDON Brown, the shadow chancellor yesterday demanded tough measures against "shirt-sleeved speculators" as he kept up Labour's onslaught on John Major's handling of the economy.

Calling for an international summit to draw up ways of curbing speculation, Mr Brown said the exchange rate mechanism had to be reformed and countries outside Europe had to play a part in ensuring economic stability. Meanwhile, the government should "get back to work" and draw up an emergency jobs programme to end the fear of unemployment.

"This global economy needs new international institutions so that never again should the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and the destinies of national economies be directed by a handful of short-sleeved speculators," Mr Brown said during the economic debate.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, also criticised speculators who had won £500 million out of the sterling crisis, and called for a "windfall tax". "If those cocky young men had bet on horses they would have had to pay a gambling tax. I can't see

why, just because they gamble on currencies, they should be allowed to pocket the lot."

Speaking to journalists later, Mr Brown agreed that a windfall tax should be discussed at the international summit. He urged Mr Major to use the EC summit on October 16 to argue for wider powers and resources to help weak currencies before they hit the ERM floor.

The time limit for intervention by central banks should be extended from three to six months, the scope for intervention at intra marginal rates (between the floor and ceiling of a currency) should be extended, and European reserves be pooled.

The shadow chancellor criticised the current "vacuum" at the heart of British government. To widespread applause he said: "I say to Norman Lamont, spend your energies pursuing the useful goal of creating jobs for others rather than the futile one of clinging to your own."

His attack on the prime minister had delegates doubled up with laughter. The recession started when John Major became Treasury secretary, worsened when he became Chancellor and intensified when he took over as prime minister. Mr Brown said: "Every time he changed jobs thousands lost theirs. The recovery will only happen when John Major loses his."

Britain now had a government with no policy, a cabinet with "virtually no Exchequer" and a prime minister with no ideas, no friends and soon no future, Mr Brown said. "Last week the Chancellor didn't just stop supporting the pound, he stopped supporting the prime minister, leaving him floating downwards to find his own level."

The conference passed a number of resolutions covering general economic policy, taxes and benefits, rights at work and union law, and pensions. But the national executive committee suffered a small setback when, against its advice, delegates voted in favour of a resolution demanding the repeal of the Child Support Act.

## Election favours new generation

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

### NEC

Tony Blair (LCCW) 4,743,000  
John Clark (GPMU) 4,470,000  
Bill Connor (UASC) 4,780,000  
Dan Duffy (TGWU) 4,812,000  
Nigel Harris (AEU) 4,631,000  
Vernon Hince (RMT) 4,745,000  
Charlie Kelly (Uccta) 3,333,000  
Richard Rosse (TSSA) 3,972,000  
Tow Sawyer (Nups) 4,769,000  
David Ward (NGU-ENG) 4,705,000  
Not elected:  
Ken Capstick (NUM) 2,253,000  
Terry O'Neill (FWU) 181,000

Socialist/Co-operative/Other: 52,000

John Evans (MSF) 11,000

Constituency Labour parties: 354,000

Tony Benn (Cheshunt) 387,000

David Blunkett (Sheffield) 531,000

Gordon Brown (Dunfermline) 523,000

Robin Cook (Livingston) 426,000

Neil Kinnock (Leyton) 533,000

John Prescott (Hull East) 446,000

Not elected:  
Diane Abbott (Hackney North & Stoke Newington) 49,000

Paul Boateng (Brent S) 18,000

Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North) 22,000

Tam Dalyell (Lithgow) 17,000

Andrew Young (Woolwich) 1,000

Bryan Gould (Dagenham) 179,000

Ken Livingstone (Brent)

Richard Bellis (CWS) 97,000

East) 145,000

Alison Madson (Hilsea) 7,000

Michael Meacher (Glasgow) 7,000

Graham Metcalfe (Mid

Wheeler  
woman  
murders

New call  
denied

Case settled

Juice drink

Car thief  
detained

Man held

Man held

Man held

Man held

Man held

Man held

## Japan party baron gets token fine in cash scandal

FROM JOANNA PITTMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S shadowy leading political powerbroker is to be fined for accepting illegal donations.

Tokyo prosecutors yesterday filed a summary charge against Shin Kanemaru, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's "kingmaker", after he submitted a statement on Friday admitting that in 1989 he had accepted a political donation of 500 million yen (£2.3 million), some five times more than the legal limit.

Mr Kanemaru will not have to appear in court and it is expected that he will be fined about £900, the same penalty as that imposed on some traffic offenders and on those damaging bank notes or committing acts of indecency.

Mr Kanemaru is believed to have arranged with prosecutors to pay the fine in return for an end to any further

embarrassing investigations about his links with Sagawa Kyubin, the errant trucking company that paid him the £2.3 million, and with a group of prominent gangsters connected to the firm.

The humiliation resulting from the exposure of his involvement in the Sagawa affair — Japan's latest political corruption scandal, which involves more than 200 MPs — will be a more significant penalty for Mr Kanemaru, although few analysts expect him to go so far as to resign his parliamentary seat.

When it comes to political misdemeanours it is not easy to astonish the Japanese any more. Since the second world war, they have witnessed 18 big political corruption scandals, ostensibly humbling senior Liberals and triggering gushing apologies and promises of reforms. Unfortunately for the crusading few in Japanese politics, dozens of opposition members are also implicated in the latest affair and in public they are remaining silent.

Yukio Aoshima, an opposition MP and "leader" of a minority party called the Nippon Club, began a hunger strike on Saturday to protest Mr Kanemaru's behaviour. Holding a placard reading, "Never pardon Kanemaru, the enemy of democracy", he was taken to hospital on Sunday when his condition suddenly weakened.

Kiyoshi Kaneko, the Liberal former governor of Niigata prefecture, was also charged yesterday over the illegal receipt of funds from Sagawa Kyubin. Mr Kaneko will have to stand trial.

Mr Kanemaru, 78, has been hiding out at his luxurious Tokyo home since standing down as Liberal vice-president a month ago. Titles do not count for much in Japanese politics and although he has never been prime minister, Mr Kanemaru has long been acknowledged as one of the two most powerful members of the political establishment. Along with Noboru Takeshita, a former prime minister, he takes credit for having hired and fired Japan's last four prime ministers. Evidence from past scandals suggests that Mr Kanemaru will be allowed to retain his influence.

Conveniently for the Liberals, members of the Socialist party, Japan's largest opposition party, are also implicated; and Makoto Tanabe, the chairman, is a friend and supporter of Mr Kanemaru.

Tales of Mr Kanemaru's alleged past transgressions have begun springing up. The *Yomiuri* newspaper dug up his memoirs in which he said: "The role of underworld staff is to handle 'underground money' — money handed illegally to voters. I was in charge of 600,000 yen during the 1953 election."

By approving Okying Chilai as a reincarnated living Buddha, Peking has set a precedent and can claim the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama must receive such approval. The last Panchen Lama died in January 1989. According to Tibetan tradition his reincarnation should have been born the day he died.

The Panchen Lama was a useful middle man for Peking, playing a dual role as a loyal communist and a revered Buddhist leader. Towards the end of his life, he appeared to regret his association with Peking, and spoke out more forcefully on behalf of Tibet.

## Comforts of Tokyo go abroad with troops

BY JOANNA PITTMAN

They lack only the glassy reception lounges mailing with bell-boys, the statutory indoor waterfalls and kidney-shaped swimming pools with aquatic cocktail bars to make their sojourn truly worthy of a five-star lifestyle. But the 6,000 members of Japan's Self Defence Force, arriving in Cambodia this month to join the United Nations peacekeeping operations, will have almost everything else one might expect from any Sheraton or Hilton hotel.

To the envy of bivouacking soldiers from the other 40 nations participating in the operation, Japan's blue helmets are being settled in with every possible comfort at hand. In their free time they might go to a Japanese cinema, curl up in the reclining seats of their music halls, browse in the library, tone up their muscles in a gym, or simply kill time in a games arcade.

Takao, a small village south of Phnom Penh which will be the main Japanese camp, is likely to take on an air of Tokyo's Ginza. There will be bars and clubs and laser-disc karaoke parlours, broadcasting the amplified croonings of homesick squaddies. There will be

yen-friendly vending machines offering Japanese cigarettes, Japanese beer and sake. And, according to some reports, there will be massage parlours.

Local peasants may be astonished to watch huge satellite television screens being installed in special viewing rooms, and soldiers unpacking piles of video recorders, stereo systems and computer games.

Although their UN counterparts are coping as best they can with the clammy nights under canvas, the Japanese are intending to erect pre-fabricated sleeping quarters, equipped with air-conditioning and mosquito screens.

The leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), where memories of Japanese wartime atrocities are still vivid, have made it clear that they would prefer to continue receiving Japan's bankers and businessmen rather than its soldiers. But fears of resurgent Japanese militarism appear at this stage unfounded.

● Phnom Penh: Bulgarian peacekeepers serving with the UN in Cambodia will be given a pay increase after going on strike. (AFP)



Yawn chorus: Taiwanese schoolboys dressed in ancient costumes and carrying batons decorated with pheasant feathers, waiting to perform a dance at the Confucius temple in Taipei yesterday to mark the anniversary of the Chinese philosopher's birth 2,542 years ago

## Peking to help end hostility

FROM WILLIAM BRENT  
IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday boosted prospects for a reunified Korea by suggesting it would use its influence over North Korea to help push forward the peace process.

In a historic summit ending 43 years of hostility, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea met President Yang Shangkun of China and asked Peking to help persuade Pyongyang to open up its alleged nuclear weapons programme to mutual inspection.

"It is most important that South and North Korea conduct mutual nuclear inspections," Lee Jung Ha, Mr Roh's press secretary, said.

Nuclear inspection is the main stumbling block to unification talks between the Koreas. China wanted a nuclear weapons-free Korea and would play a role in achieving peace, Mr Yang said.

International pressure on North Korea was "not desirable", Mr Yang said. But the foreign ministry suggested China would use its close links with Pyongyang to nudge the hardline communist government out of isolation. (AFP)

## PRIDE OF PLACE

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Saddam opponents seek help from UN**

**Shaqlawa**: A new Iraqi opposition body, representing most of the factions opposed to President Saddam Hussein, which was set up in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq this week, has appealed to the United Nations to use frozen Iraqi assets for humanitarian relief to try to prevent starvation in the country this winter (Claire Pionton writes).

The call was part of a declaration by the so-called Iraqi National Congress, grouping more than 30 opposition factions — including Shias, Kurds, liberals, communists, and independents. The group also announced that, after negotiations on quotas of ethnic, political and religious elements, the make-up of a 174-member national assembly for a democratic and pluralistic Iraqi government had been agreed.

Fears of a disaster in the north of the country after the cold weather starts in mid-November have already prompted the UN to draw up plans for a £34 million aid programme. A fact-finding group from America, Britain, France and Turkey is expected to arrive in the area within the next fortnight to assess needs.

**Nigeria crash rescue held up**

**Lagos**: Thick swamp and heavy rains hampered the efforts of rescue workers to recover the bodies of more than 160 young officers of the Nigerian military who were killed when an air force plane crashed north of Lagos on Saturday (Elizabeth Obadina writes).

The wreckage of a Hercules C130 transport plane, which nosedived minutes after take-off from Lagos for a military staff college in Jaji, lies buried in mud. Reports said 163 army, air force and navy officers had died, but the toll could rise above the 176 of Nigeria's worst air disaster in 1973. Experts were mystified by the crash, which robbed the military of a whole stratum of young officers seemingly bound for high rank.

**Border fence**

**Delhi**: The Indian government announced that it would fence more than 500 miles of the border with Bangladesh by 1996 to keep out the tens of thousands annually who are illegal immigrants (AFP).

**Guzmán trial**

**Lima**: Abimael Guzmán, the leader of Peru's Shining Path guerrillas, appeared before a military court on treason charges. He will be sentenced within ten days and is expected to be jailed for life (Reuters).

**Sure faith**

**New York**: Most Americans believe that Jesus Christ will return in the next century. America will have a woman president and a cure will be found for AIDS and cancer, a poll for Time magazine and CNN showed (Reuters).

**Tourist threat**

**Srinagar**: A leading Kashmiri militant group warned tourists to leave the troubled area in three days or they would "come to harm" (Reuters).

**Wobble factor**

**Auckland**: At least 20 teenagers were treated for chemical burns to their eyes after a rugby club staged a jelly-wrestling competition. The gelatin in the jelly reacted with other ingredients (AFP).



Rosane Collor: alleged to have got free clothes

**Heroes and villains walk free after de Klerk strikes deal with Mandela to restart talks**



Defiant salute: McBride, the ANC car bomber, punching the air after his release in Durban yesterday. Supporters gave him a hero's welcome

**Killers remain unrepentant as Pretoria grants amnesty**

**A STRANGE** collection of heroes and villains came blinking into the sunlight from prisons all over South Africa yesterday.

Barend Strydom, a mass murderer who smiled as he shot dead six blacks and an Indian in the heart of Pretoria, because, he said, he hated blacks, smiled again as he was smuggled out of Pretoria jail. Khaki-clad right-wingers folded away the Boer republic's flag as it flashed by in a car and they missed the opportunity to welcome him. Strydom was remembered for his smile. After his killing spree in 1988 he told the judge who gave him eight death sentences: "During the shooting the wounded did not appear to appreciate the gravity of their situation. I smiled. I see myself as a friendly person. It was difficult to suppress my laughter. I smiled and carried on."

Also smiling yesterday was Robert McBride, a Coloured murderer from Durban, who received a hero's welcome from African National Congress supporters. Including Walter Sisulu, the ANC's deputy president, as he stepped out of Westville prison. McBride set off a car bomb outside Magoo's Bar, a popular beachfront cafe. Three young white women died and 69 people were injured.

"We will protect you," the crowd shouted, for McBride had been the victim of an attack by a hostile gang of inmates on the eve of his release. Armed with scissors and a padlock and chain, and allegedly encouraged by a prison warden, they were fought off by another group of prisoners. McBride was only slightly hurt. He said at a press conference later that he would take up arms again if the situation should require it, but he insisted that he would work for reconciliation now.

"Press reports about my case always say the victims were innocent civilians," he said. "But when the victims are black, like in Barend Strydom's case, then they are just blacks. If the situation was the same as in 1983, yes, I would take up arms again."

President de Klerk is steering a precarious path as he attempts to accommodate both the ANC and Chief Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, writes Michael Hamlyn from Johannesburg

McBride told the reception committee: "I am still not free — we still don't have the vote. If the people I killed had been black, I would have been freed in July 1991," he said. Asked if he thought there was any comparison between what he and Strydom had done, he said: "Absolutely none."

Curiously both McBride and Strydom were married while they dwelt on death row. Their wives were on hand yesterday to greet them. Paula McBride, the leftist daughter of a de Beers executive, works for the ANC-oriented Lawyers for Human Rights. Karen Raubenbach-Strydom runs a food stall in a tourist resort outside Pretoria.

Also freed yesterday were some professional assassins from the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation. Mzondeki Nondwini was freed from Glamorgan prison in East London. Mthetheli Minciwe, his co-defendant in 1986, was also freed from Pretoria jail. They were sentenced to life in prison for a series of landmine explosions



in which seven people were killed. They had been trained outside the country, and when they were finally captured McBride managed to get his hands free, grab an AK47 from his police escort and escape again. He killed two policemen in the process.

The release of prisoners, the President de Klerk said, had committed atrocious crimes for political reasons, was part of the deal which was struck so that the president

and Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, could resume talking. The government had for long insisted that they could not be called political prisoners, but finally agreed to let them out.

More than 150 had been freed by yesterday. Another four hundred or more names are on a list the ANC has prepared which will be acted upon by November 15. The right-wingers freed are felt to have also committed "political crimes".

Among those released on Saturday were two who had necklaced *impimpis*, or police informers. "I was happy watching him burn," said George Skosana as he walked to freedom. "I would do it again if necessary." His cellmate, Lucky Malaza, described to reporters how he killed his man. "He was killing us through what he was telling the police," he said.

"One day we grabbed him and took him before a people's court. By using force we got him to confess that he was an *impimpis*. The judge, one of the community elders, sentenced him to death. We put the tire around him and lit a match. He screamed and screamed and tried to pull the tire off, but could not. He took a long time to die."

Gloomy scenario, page 22

**President reassures Buthelezi**

**PRESIDENT** de Klerk of South Africa wrote yesterday to Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of KwaZulu and leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, to discuss his weekend outburst against the deal struck at the summit between Mr de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress. Mr de Klerk said that, in the light of the trust that he had developed with the Zulu leader, he would not respond publicly. Chief Buthelezi, irascible and touchy, is and will remain important to the government's constitutional strategy, and it would clearly be counter-productive to offend him. "Perhaps he would command 10 to 15 per cent of the total vote in a national election," one observer said yesterday. "And unless the ANC wins that election by a landslide, that 10 per cent would be an important asset. De Klerk cannot be insensitive to Buthelezi. His whole strategy depends on an alliance between the National party and a series of regional parties, of which Inkatha is a significant player. Tom Lodge, assistant professor of politics at Witwatersrand university, insists that although the government cannot go ahead without the ANC, all the other players are of secondary importance.

"He is not going to bring the government many votes, whether in or out of office," he said. "Much more sensitive is the long term... would be for the National party to nurture the white vote and to build support among the conservative Coloured and Indian population."

But not everyone agrees that Chief Buthelezi is a significant player. Tom Lodge, assistant professor of politics at Witwatersrand university, insists that although the government cannot go ahead without the ANC, all the other players are of secondary importance.

"He is not going to bring the government many votes, whether in or out of office," he said. "Much more sensitive is the long term... would be for the National party to nurture the white vote and to build support among the conservative Coloured and Indian population."

Intelligence sources have confirmed that both Unita and the MPLA have kept troops out of the demobilisation camps monitored by the UN and that Unita may still be holding Stinger surface-to-air missiles supplied by America in the late 1980s. Against this background, Margaret Anstee, the UN secretary-general's special representative to Angola, described the international community's logistical support for the elections as vital, although the UN's original mandate was merely to monitor the ceasefire and demobilisation of 150,000 troops on both sides and to verify the elections.

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Amid denials of two-speed strategy, Germany and France lay plans for mini-Europe on the Rhine

## Bonn and Paris prepare for day Britain backs out

ACCORDING to German newspaper reports, detailed contingency plans are being drawn up for a mini-monetary union in Europe, centred on France and Germany, in the wake of recent turmoil in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The plans have not been officially denied. But the Bonn government coalition parties yesterday made a point of rejecting out of hand any idea of a resulting "two-speed Europe".

The reports all emanate from Brussels sources, suggesting that they have been leaked by EC officials close to Jacques Delors in an effort to increase pressure on Britain to exercise its authority as current president of the EC's council of ministers to speed up the

ratification process. True or not, publication of the reports has caused acute embarrassment to the government. Inside the chancellery it is acknowledged that this kind of publicity plays into the hands of Eurosceptics, making it even more difficult to ensure that the Maastricht treaty is adopted or keeps to its timetable if it is.

Peter Hintze, the general secretary of the Christian Democrats (CDU), made it obvious yesterday that his party leader, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is acutely worried now that British opponents of the Maastricht treaty will be encouraged by the story. A two-speed Europe was "dangerous", Herr Hintze told jour-

Ian Murray in Bonn and Charles Bremner in Paris report on Franco-German contingency plans for a mini-monetary union in Europe

nalists. Despite all the difficulties, he fervently hoped that the timetable for ratification of the treaty would proceed as planned.

In contrast, Count Otto Lansdorff, leader of the Free Democrats (FDP), the junior partners in the coalition, described the Maastricht timetable for monetary union as unrealistic. He told *Bunte* magazine that he did not believe it was possible to start this from 1993, and he insisted that the Bundestag would

have to be given the final say before Germany entered such a system. His party president, Mitterrand, when they met in Paris last week. The news magazine story was not only denied but described as "poison" and "completely fictitious" by the government, which last week also denied a report by *Die Welt* that the two had discussed a "mini-Europe" when they met.

Nevertheless, one of the chancellor's closest aides has confirmed that "emergency planning" has been going

ahead on creating a common autonomous bank with a seat in Frankfurt and headed by a Frenchman. The aim would be to look at the feasibility of setting this up in the event that Britain does not ratify Maastricht.

According to *Der Spiegel*, the idea was discussed between Herr Kohl and President Mitterrand when they met in Paris last week. The news magazine story was not only denied but described as "poison" and "completely fictitious" by the government, which last week also denied a report by *Die Welt* that the two had discussed a "mini-Europe" when they met.

Diplomatic observers here are sure that the two leaders did consider how to accelerate

European integration if Britain failed to ratify the treaty but that both agreed it was more important how to do all they could to help John Major, "if we can devise ways of interpreting and publicising the treaty in a way which calms the sceptics in Britain, then that will achieve much more than a two-speed Europe," one government official explained. "A two-speed Europe would be a no-speed Europe because the Community would tear itself apart."

Nevertheless, the two-speed idea is winning growing support in Germany, particularly among bankers who are worried that a European system including weak economies would be unstable and would damage German interests.

Karl-Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, is calling for new negotiations to create a strong currency union, possibly including the Swiss and Austrians.

In Paris, Elisabeth Guigou, the European affairs minister, said yesterday that France is keen to help Britain ratify the Maastricht treaty but will not wait indefinitely.

The Elysée presidential palace announced that Mr Major would visit Paris tomorrow to discuss the future of European political, economic and monetary union with President Mitterrand. Mrs Guigou had earlier said the talks would be held on Thursday.

"First of all we wish to do everything we can to help Mr Major, who is a sincere sup-

porter of ratification of the treaty, to persuade his parliament to ratify this treaty," Mrs Guigou told radio Europe 1. "But we will not say naturally that we are not going to wait indefinitely."

Mr Major is due to meet

Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, in London tomorrow after returning from his meeting with M

Mitterrand. He will chair an emergency EC summit in Birmingham on October 16.

Mrs Guigou said there could be no question of reopening the Maastricht treaty text. "This treaty must be implemented. We must act to make that possible."

Two-speed Europe, page 1  
Leading article, page 15

## Ministers jostle for place in Europe's financial fast track

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers, at their first meeting since the pound was pulled out of the exchange-rate mechanism, yesterday proclaimed their loyalty to the ERM while manoeuvring in case it founders.

Several ministers rushed to lay claim to a place in the fast-track of any two-speed European economy. Officially not one capital in the Community believes that Germany and France are preparing to take a select group of states into a single currency if the Maastricht treaty is not ratified by all 12 states. In practice governments anxious to join were yesterday busy showing their credentials.

"I would like to stress that whatever happens, it is the policy of the Danish government to participate in the hard core of the ERM," said Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the Danish economic affairs minister. He implied that Denmark, which rejected key parts of Maastricht's prescriptions for monetary and political union in a referendum in June, would be happy to see the ERM's "narrow band" of permissible exchange-rate fluctuations made narrower.

The Irish punt has been

under severe pressure in the ERM during the past fortnight and yesterday interest rates rose to 13.75 per cent. Capital controls were reimposed last week. But in Brussels yesterday Bertie Ahern, the finance minister, stoutly asserted that Ireland intended to stay up with the leaders. "If there is a first group, we will be part of it," an Irish official said later. "All the fundamentals of our economy meet the requirements of that fast track." Mr Ahern, the official added, had talked to Horst Koehler, the junior German finance minister, yesterday, and obtained an assurance that Ireland would indeed make the grade. Herr Koehler is effectively the membership secretary for any inner club of the future.

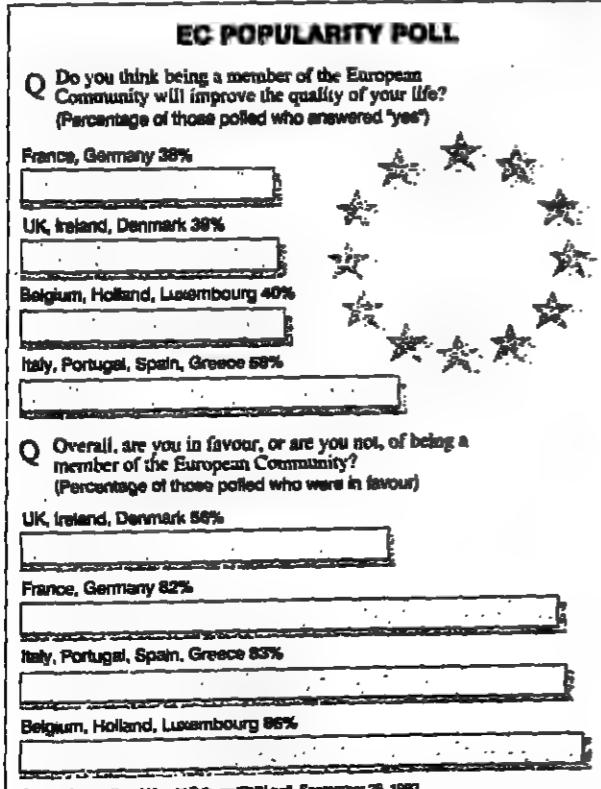
At the pivotal meeting in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn a year ago, the EC's poorer economies were told that the Maastricht treaty would allow an unknown number of leading economies to forge ahead with economic union in 1999. If a single currency waited for the Greek economy to catch up, the argument ran, the single currency would never happen. "All we're doing now," said one EC diplomat, "is pulling the diplomatic camouflage off the machinery we put into the treaty. Two speeds always has been inevitable now it's just more obvious than it was."

Before settling the fate of the treaty, the EC leaders who will meet in Birmingham on October 16 have to find a way of storm-proofing the ERM. Two members with vulnerable currencies, Spain and Ireland, have exchange controls in place. Italy has reneged on its promise to return to the ERM, and nobody in Brussels expects a rapid decision by Britain.

According to the Maastricht timetable, the governments should pick a site for the European Central Bank by the end of the year and start removing differences between exchange rates on January 1, 1994. The key decisions at Birmingham may effectively split the ERM into two groups: currencies heading for ever-narrower exchange-rate bands and the remainder in wider bands and liable to be deviated in realignments.

Whatever happens, Britain and Greece will form a third group outside the grid. Shortly after sterling left the ERM, John Major made a passing reference to Britain enjoying the same status as Greece inside the European monetary system but outside the exchange-rate mechanism. At present, the pound, Italian lire and Greek drachma all fit in this category. The currencies are built into the formula used to calculate the value of the euro and the governments have signed the Maastricht treaty which commits them to make Europe's economies converge, although Britain can avoid joining the single currency.

Being paired with Greece outside a redrawn ERM would be politically ignominious for Britain but implies no onerous obligation. Athens claims that it will join the ERM at the end of next year, but few believe it. Greek macro-economic policy, which is effectively supervised in Brussels, has brought inflation down from 24 per cent to 15 this year but it remains the obvious laggard of the Community. But Britain and Greece may be joined by other refugee states if the ERM is confined only to countries heading for German-run monetary union before 2000.



### Romanian elections

## Former communists hold sway

FROM ADAM LEBOV IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIA leapt back to the future yesterday as President Iliescu looked on course to continue his hold on power. Preliminary election results showed him comfortably beating Emil Constantinescu, his main rival for the presidency. At the same time Mr Iliescu's supporters in the Democratic National Salvation Front will almost certainly be the largest party in parliament and are likely to form a coalition government, probably in alliance with nationalists and socialists.

Gheorghe Fuman, the extreme nationalist who ran on an anti-Hungarian ticket, is expected to receive 11 per cent of the presidential vote. If confirmed nationwide the results will make Romania the only country in Eastern Europe still governed by former communists.

Detailed preliminary re-

sults announced last night by the election results committee revealed that Mr Iliescu was in a commanding lead with 46.8 per cent of the 2.1 million votes already counted. Mr Constantinescu, the Democratic Convention candidate, had 31.7 per cent and Mr Fuman with 10.9 per cent.

The result is a serious blow for the Democratic Convention. Opposition figures contested the preliminary results, and some hinted that there had been electoral fraud such as marred the last general election in 1990.

But most of the more than 500 international electoral observers believe that, while there was room for improvement, there was no evidence of widespread malpractice.

"There is great difference between the May 1990 elections and the current one, and that is not only my feeling," René Combier, a Belgian observer, said. "I took part in his campaign."

## Russia reinforces army as Tajik unrest grows

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA is to reinforce its military presence urgently in the troubled republic of Tajikistan in an attempt to stop rival factions there plundering its bases for weaponry and taking hostages to press their demands, the defence ministry here announced yesterday.

The emergency measure was announced after Russian troops had, with some difficulty, secured the release of 31 servicemen taken hostage by rival groups. It betrays Moscow's concern about the rapid deterioration in relations between Tajik fighters and former Soviet troops there.

An unspecified number of men will be moved urgently to support the 20,000 motorised rifle division deployed in the republic after what the ministry called "a dramatic worsening of the situation".

The ministry said: "Threats against the personnel of the Russian army, the capture of hostages, military hardware and combat weapons are be-

coming more and more frequent." The rebels had seized the men in an attempt to stop them for weapons, but agreed to hand over the hostages after an armoured convoy was dispatched. The convoy came under fire as it crossed the Vahsh river, and two troops were wounded 50 miles south of Dushanbe. A team of rebels had seized the men in an attempt to stop them for weapons, but agreed to hand over the hostages after an armoured convoy was dispatched. The convoy came under fire as it crossed the Vahsh river, and two troops were wounded 50 miles south of Dushanbe. A team of rebels had seized the men in an attempt to stop them for weapons, but agreed to hand over the hostages after an armoured convoy was dispatched. The convoy came under fire as it crossed the Vahsh river, and two troops were wounded 50 miles south of Dushanbe. A team of rebels had seized the men in an attempt to stop them for weapons, but agreed to hand over the hostages after an armoured convoy was dispatched. 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## When marriage turns bloody

Should the law punish wives who are driven too far, asks Janet Daley

**M**en have an unfair advantage in the homicide stakes because there is a defence available to them when they murder their spouses which can scarcely ever apply to women. In this age of equal opportunities mania, such palpable injustice could not go unchallenged. The campaign to correct this inequality, of which we heard much last year during the Sara Thornton case, has been revived by the freeing last week of Kiranjit Ahluwalia.

If men are provoked into thoughtless violence which results in the death of their female partners, they may plead that loss of self-control releases them from responsibility for their actions. But women, even when provoked, are not physically capable of murder in a spontaneous fit of rage and thus almost never find themselves able to use the defence of "provocation".

The fact that we must now be expected to excuse women's violence too, so that they will not be disadvantaged, is a testament to the influence of feminism on public debate.

Or perhaps it is as much the final triumph of liberalism that we find nothing absurd in the idea that all groups in society should have an equal right

to commit the ultimate crime, or to be let off once they have committed it. Those campaigning to change the law on provocation are asking the courts to treat men and women differently in a way which must, in the end, be damaging to the idea of female equality. It reinforces the stereotype of women as helpless, to argue that the only escape for a sane, adult wife might be through the murder of her captor. This is a tree society. Only a woman depressed to the point of irrationality could see herself as a trapped slave.

To change the definition of what constitutes a crime like premeditated murder so that it means different things for different sexes or social groups is to create different classes of citizen and, what should be anathema to feminists, different degrees of moral responsibility for men and women.

The defence of provocation for men is a recognition of the obvious truth that men may genuinely lose control of their aggression and, with their superior physical strength, commit acts which they did not intend. Intention is the key to whether or not someone may be charged with murder. And intention is equated with forethought. For a woman to kill almost inevitably involves forethought since it requires the use of a weapon and this means that women who kill are almost always charged with murder. It also means that they kill less often.

Susceptible to quicker remedy is the mandatory life sentence for murder which means that the battered wife who kills out of desperation is treated in the same way as the psychopathic serial killer. The reform which we need is one which would allow every murder and its mitigating circumstances to be treated as an individual case, whatever the murderer's gender.

...and moreover

### CRAIG BROWN

**I**t was with the very greatest pleasure that I — Craig Brown from North Essex, attended the Annual Dinner of Late-Night Phone-In-Callers. You can always be sure of a really lively interchange of topical opinions and forthright views at this annual night out.

As we entered the dining room, The Chief Barker yelled out our names and current opinions. "Charles from Islington!" he shouted as the gentleman two in front of me moved to the head of the queue. "Hates the ERM, would never trust a Gerry, wants to know frankly who won the war and can recommend household bleach as an effective stain-remover!"

I noticed a slight hush as Charles from Islington trotted down the stairs into the dining room. In the past few years, he has made quite a name for himself by expressing his frank and punchy views regularly on the Late-Night Phone-In Circuit. Indeed views of his such as "frankly, there must be something in this Loch Ness monster thing" and "who does that Jacques Delors think he is, then?" have earned him the respect of all his fellow phoners.

Within seconds, the Chief Barker was on to the next guest. "Deirdre from Staines!" he belched. "Thinks British Rail an absolute disgrace, would never do the Queen's job, not for a million pounds and much preferred Mrs Major as she was!"

As you probably know, Deirdre from Staines is also something of a name to conjure with in the

Both Labour and Tories ignore the underclass, the moral failure of our time

**Y**esterday in Blackpool, speaking for Labour's National Executive Committee, Tom Sawyer told delegates what was wrong with their party. He quoted an engineering workmate: "Tom, we're going up. Labour only cares about people going down." To win, we all know, Labour must change that.

Seven years ago, when an MP, I wrote an article in *The Times* about three pathetic young hitchhikers to whom I had given a lift up the M1. Mr Sawyer's chum would have identified them as "going down". They made a strong impression and I wrote about it.

"The ginger-haired boy had sunken cheeks, a pasty face, and many studs in his nose and ears. He looked as though he wouldn't get up if you knocked him down. The blond boy looked as though he would have run away before you had time to hit him."

I still remember his careworn face and nervous eyes. I have learned since to recognise, in the old-young features of those we call inadequate, the mark left by terrific anxiety in childhood. Busy, rich, successful people sometimes assume that at the bottom of the heap one could at least relax. "It's tough at the top" we say. But the haunted faces of the deprived suggest strain of an intensity we scarcely know. It's tough at the bottom actually.

I helped them spell "Liverpool" on a piece of cardboard before leaving them at Watford Gap. They had never been north of London, had never been on a motorway, had little idea how to find the person they knew and hoped to stay with on Merseyside, and no idea where, or how big, Liverpool was. They were looking for a "spot of bother". They would probably get caught. I left them with a heavy heart.

"My three passengers were not very bad people, nor were they all good — nor 'misunderstood', nor 'interesting' nor 'worthwhile underneath'. They were shallow and underdeveloped and, most of all, they were weak. Yet they were capable of all kinds of harm... The gross cost to the state of each of their lives will be staggering: but it will be paid and they will be contained, and that is the happy — or sad? — truth of it."

**T**hat article, "Going Nowhere", was about those at the bottom of the heap, and their hopelessness. We have since coined a fashionable term, "the underclass", but the facts and the people remain the same.

I simply ask: who cares? Where now is the constituency of the deprived? Is it really on the left any more? Do these people even vote?

The opposition parties need the underclass like a hole in the head. Their politicians well know that concentrating on losers only dulls a party's shine among the upwardly aspirational voter it needs to attract.

By "underclass" I do not mean the less well-off. I do not mean those on below average earnings, the bottom half, the bottom third, the bottom quarter — no, not even the bottom tenth. I mean no more than one in 50 — a million people, perhaps. How do I identify that 2 per cent? Not by income alone. Although almost all of them must be very poor, there are millions of others on basic incomes who are not a social problem and whose condition, while uncomfortable, is not wretched. I do not call such people the underclass. They keep their heads above water and their lives have shape and hope; they can, and many of them will, move as well as down, when circumstances change or life-chances come their way.

## What shall we do about the poor?

Matthew Parris on how poverty became a dirty word



Hogarth's 'Gin Lane': our attitude to despair and depravity has changed little in two centuries

I say this — many would challenge it — in the belief that the state provision is a viable floor, for people who are able to stand upon. But social or psychological damage can leave people in too much of a mess to manage on what the state provides, use help, or take chances that may be offered. It is a depressing group to work with. Not as a generalisation — nice people, not useful people. Unrewarding, not deserving or virtuous. Anything but ready to take advantage of an even break.

They are not, for the most part, satisfying as clients. Their lives are in pieces and their inadequacies are wrecking the lives of the children they beget and parent with helpless abandon. I believe this is, in a necessarily imprecise way, a group identifiable by criteria other than income alone.

Perhaps 2 per cent of the population, they occupy three-quarters

of the problem council estates, half the prisons and two-thirds of the magistrates' courts. They take up much police time. They are an almost unbelievably expensive section of society, a running sore but in no sense life-threatening to the state. Anti-social and inadequate, they are not smart enough to cooperate, and much of their crime and aggression is directed at each other. These are the stuff of which smashed bus-shelters and battered children, not revolutions, are made.

Spoils not wreckers, we can live with them, chucking the aspirins of state welfare — free, bad housing and cigarette money at them — and hoping that indolence, stupidity and television, will keep them out of too much harm.

But that is all we can do? What are the limits to our generosity? In my estimation the charity of the British electorate would and will carry a few million of the weakest of its countrymen — a few per cent. But it will not carry 10, 20, 30, 40 per cent. Those on the left who have tried to load more bodies in the welfare lifeboat than the vessel will bear deserve a share of the blame for the cold-hearted cynicism with which Britons now approach any claim on their conscience from those less advantaged than they.

If, now, we are to weigh what it would be practicable and affordable to do in order to break cycles of depravity and deprivation among the inadequates, we must start by making a clear distinction between underclass and lower class. Statistical sleights of hand which have pointed to that great mass of the population living on an income below the median line and called it "poverty", have done the most enormous injury to the very poorest. They have brought the whole concept of deprivation into disrepute, dragging it into the

twilight world of half-truth and political weasery. Spokesmen from the poverty lobbies and politicians from the left are particularly to blame. Poverty lobbies, often to reinforce their own status and careers, have tried to enlarge the constituency of what they call "the needy" or "desperate", hugely inflating its numbers to the point of discrediting the very words. If you stretch anything too wide, it breaks. Most Britons will not accept that (in their use of the term) a quarter, or a third, of their countrymen are "poor".

Socialist politicians have used the Trojan horse of "urgent need" to conceal their hidden ambitions for general income redistribution. There may be a case for further income redistribution: that is for ideological debate. But those on the left who have muddled wealth and equalisation with the argument about helping the small minority whose condition is truly pitiable, have done a real disservice to the weakest citizens of all: for the result has been that the British middle classes have heard the argument about poverty, noticed who is advancing it, smelt a rat and looked away. Most, I judge, reject the argument for equalising society, but are ready to hear the argument for repairing an unequal society.

**I**t is time for the Conservative party to repossess this argument. Ever since the post-war Labour victory, Tories have ceded to socialists the intellectual initiative over helping the poor. Put crudely, the thought has been that Labour are much in favour of it while the Tories are in favour, but not so much. Labour were there to be kind, the Tories to be careful. Nobody, it seemed, was there to think. Labour have posed an ambition — and the Tories have halved it.

And the debate has been all about sums. The quality and strategy of the campaign has been defined mostly from the left, mostly in terms of straight cash handouts. It has swelled into general income redistribution, failed in its beneficiaries and exhausted its benefactors, and come a terminal cropper. The left have now lost their authority (indeed the opposition have lost their interest) in this debate.

I think the Tories have a moral responsibility to revive it. To do so will anger libertarians and worry Treasury ministers but to both I offer this thought. If, as I suggest, we can get away from the argument that there is a simple equation between income and need — the "neediest" being just the bottom x per cent — then we have escaped a powerful Conservative objection to welfare. The objection is that there is no natural limit to the relief of comparative poverty but helping the poorest creates new demands all the way up the line, raising stakes but never removing "the bottom x per cent".

My thought is that we define our target group differently, and in more subtle ways, which must include delinquent or inadequate behaviour as well as the income of the individual or family. My further thought is that this group is quite distinctive, finite, and rather small, though helping it will be enormously expensive per capita.

My final thought is that just giving such people money will solve little: many personalities will prove resistant or even intractable; that breaking the parent-child cycle of disorder will have to be a priority; and that some difficult judgments and possible infringements of liberty may arise... not a programme just some thoughts. It is time they began.

the post of general secretary of the 31,000-strong Association of University Teachers. Diana Warwick stands down from the job tomorrow.

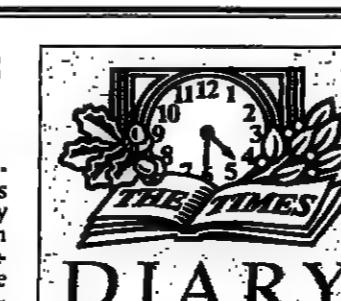
Clarke's main rival for the post is Neil Stewart, another former key figure in Kinnock's office. The two men have similar credentials, both having served as presidents of the National Union of Students. The burly Clarke is much in evidence in Blackpool this week, enjoying his first conference in many years without the burden of office and playing down talk of the AUT job. But sources insist that Clarke remains the favourite.

Since the election of John Smith, Clarke, who worked for Kinnock from 1981 and would have become chief of staff in Downing Street had Labour won, has been unemployed. He has talked of becoming a parliamentary lobbyist but many feel Clarke's bluff, no nonsense style would ideally suit him to the AUT job. John Patten has rejected the university teachers' pay deal and the new union leader, who will be appointed next month, will be on an inevitable collision course with the government — a position Clarke will surely relish.

**Barbara Castle proved she has lost none of her celebrated fighting spirit as she arrived in Blackpool this week. Settling into the back of a taxi at the railway station, Baroness Castle, 81, directed the driver to her hotel. But the driver, with his meter switched off, insisted on trying to cram further passengers into the car. When Castle objected, her suitcases were dumped on the pavement and she was ordered out of the car. Castle may have mellowed with age, but not much. "Young man," boomed the unmistakable tones. "Put those bags back. Do as you are told. And do it now." More of the same followed in vintage Castle style and she was soon on her way — without the additional passengers.**

**Out of sight...**  
THERE was some surprise among his guests last night that Jeremy Isaacs had chosen the London Fields gallery in Hackney rather than the plush surroundings of the Crush Bar at Covent Garden, to celebrate his 60th birthday. Perhaps his decision is more understandable in view of today's board meeting at the Royal Opera House which is due to consider the renewal of Isaacs' contract.

Angus Stirling, the chairman of Covent Garden, missed the party, detained by the first night of *Fidelio* at the House. Bamber Gascoigne was present, however, repre-



### And then there's wealth creation

**BARONESS** Thatcher's £9.5 million, revealed in the list of Britain's wealthiest women this week, may seem modest in comparison with the vast wealth of Britain's aristocracy. When one realises the fortune has been amassed almost exclusively since she left office less than two years ago, the sum becomes considerably more impressive.

It was just as the cheese arrived. "I trust this cheese is pasteurised in strict accordance with government standards," said Charles that I realised that everyone around the table was single. "I was married once, to June from Dulwich," said Ken from Tring. "But we couldn't agree on Britain's future in the ERM, so we thought it best to split. The children decided to go with June, but then they were always confirmed Euro-sceptics."

Deirdre from Staines had a similar take of woe. "It was the Channel Tunnel that did it for us," she told me, ruefully. "My ex-husband — Stuart from Wisbech, you've probably heard him — always claimed in the privacy of our own home that he fully supported my brave stand against this monstrous intrusion into our once-great island. But then I turned on the kitchen radio one morning and what did I hear? It was Stuart, calling from upstairs, declaring to Nick Ross that the Channel Tunnel was a triumph of technological know-how, a beacon for international goodwill. The minute he got off that phone, I was onto my lawyers. He's now seeing Peggy from Worksop, but everyone knows where she stands on EC farm subsidies, so I don't give it a thought."

"I'd never let anyone come between me and my opinions," nodded Rob from Aberdeen. "And if they did, I'd say it was high time this so-called government took action."

Charles says "I have a huge map of the network showing who is paying the money to whom and how it is done. Most of Lady Thatcher's funds come from the

board. But the question on most lips was would Isaacs take the opportunity to invite Peter Brooke, the new National Heritage Secretary? He had a difficult relationship with David Mellor and the party could have helped to establish better relations with his successor. "We are unaware of any invitation from Mr Isaacs," said a spokesman for Brooke yesterday. "Do you think he is meant to be there?"

**• Nigella Lawson and the journalists John Diamond took even close friends by surprise when they quietly wed in Venice on Friday. But the city is, after all, the romantic capital of Europe and as Lawson, the daughter of the former chancellor, was on holiday in Italy with her partner it seemed like a good idea.**



**Yet the Italian authorities are not easily persuaded to marry foreigners and the Foreign Office felt it could not assist. So how did they do it? "I persuaded them because I had lived in Italy as a teenager," says Lawson. The rumour that the couple had met in Venice may have helped, too. Friends say that over the copying machine at The Sunday Times is probably a better bet.**



## ENDING THE EURO-SCHISM

Two separate questions have become confused in Britain's post-devaluation debate over the economy and Europe. Should Britain ratify the Maastricht treaty? And should sterling rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism? These are best seen as distinct issues, but in the feverish atmosphere of last week's recall of Parliament, they have been rolled together into a crude *litmus test*: are you for or against "Europe"?

Even a few days have produced dire results. The cabinet and the Conservative party are splitting over irrelevances instead of uniting to seize the opportunities presented by freedom from the ERM. A prime minister who not long ago won a great electoral triumph seems to be losing his grip on power.

No miracle is needed to heal the great European schism, only some clear thinking. To pull his party and government back together Mr Major must recognise two realities. First, withdrawal from the ERM has transformed Britain's economic prospects. Secondly, life outside the ERM has transformed Britain's relationship with Europe and the significance of the Maastricht treaty for that relationship. Until September 16, ERM membership, Maastricht ratification and domestic monetary policy were bound together. This need no longer be so.

Mr Major owes the British people a referendum on the Maastricht accord. It would provide an excellent opportunity to air complex arguments about fixed exchange-rates and federalism, subsidiarity and their economic impact.

The bad news is that he seems still implacably opposed to that course. The good news is that if he insists on helping his European partners by moving to ratify the Maastricht treaty, he can at least do so with the minimum further damage to the economy.

During any ratification debate, fears about federalism encroaching on Britain's political sovereignty would have to be addressed separately through clearer definitions of subsidiarity and restrictions on central decision-making, as Denmark is

already demanding. Provided Mr Major made clear that he would not re-enter the ERM in the foreseeable future, ratification would have little or no effect on Britain's new freedom of economic manoeuvre.

The British government said from the beginning that its main objective in negotiating the treaty was to protect Britain from the excesses of Euro-federalist ambition. In principle, this was to some extent achieved through the opt-outs and restrictions on European Community competence painstakingly negotiated by Mr Major. But in practice, there were justifiable doubts about the possibility of exercising Mr Major's opt-outs so long as Britain remained in the ERM. The Danish referendum also cast doubt on the adequacy of the safeguards against centralisation that Mr Major had demanded in the text of the treaty.

As long as the government believed that the pound must be stabilised for ever at its ERM parity of DM2.95, movement towards EMU was the only logical result, regardless of opt-outs. While Britain was in the ERM, therefore, ratification of Maastricht was rightly seen by both Euro-sceptics and Euro-enthusiasts as the decisive battle in which the future of Britain's relationship with Europe would be settled.

All of these calculations have now been transformed. Maastricht may still be critical to France, Germany and Belgium, but as long as sterling is kept outside the ERM, it is not so critical for Britain.

Once Mr Major has made an unequivocal promise that Britain will not rejoin the ERM in the foreseeable future, he can argue that Maastricht is no longer a crucial matter in itself. He would be acknowledging that ERM membership makes sense only as the penultimate step on the road to an irrevocable monetary and political union.

Mr Major must promise that sterling will not go back into any European currency system unless the people of Britain decide to be part of a federal European state. As the inadequate process of parliamentary ratification draws nearer, this promise should be the Euro-sceptics' price for ratifying the filleted corpse of Maastricht.

## BEYOND OPTING OUT

The opprobrium of the education world is piling up in John Patten's office following Friday's deadline for responses to his white paper on schools. Yesterday's opposition from the National Union of Teachers was only to be expected, but even the grant-maintained schools themselves have expressed doubts about the government's plans for a new framework for state education. Mr Patten put a brave face on his isolation yesterday when addressing a CBI conference on the white paper, but he will know better than anybody the extent of the criticism heaped on certain key proposals.

There is a danger, however, that the debate on the future of the education service will become merely a sterile exchange on the merits of opting out. However justified the criticisms of centralisation were, there is little doubt that opting out is here to stay. Labour almost admitted this soon after the election, though it may revert to a hard line in Blackpool this week. Although the expected avalanche of applications for grant-maintained status has yet to appear, the sector will be too large for any government to abolish by the time this Parliament has run its course. This government has a clear mandate to press ahead with opting out, and many schools are only waiting to hear the details of the new arrangements.

Opting out has to be made to work in tandem with the local education authorities if state schools are to meet the ambitious targets set by ministers. For good or ill, the days of a monolithic education system are over. Mr Patten tried in his white paper to piece together a system from the patchwork left by his predecessors, proposing to share responsibility in the delicate area of school admissions and forcing grant-maintained status on only those schools deemed to have

failed under local authority stewardship. In trying to square the circle, however, he has created further uncertainty at a time when the education service yearns for nothing more than stability. Parents cannot be certain from year to year which body will control their children's destiny, and can have little confidence that organisations with little in common but mutual mistrust will be able to work together.

Mr Patten would do well to listen to the head teachers, who are lobbying for maximum control of their own budgets while education authorities survive, and a clean break where town halls have lost the confidence of most parents. Better such a solution than the lingering death envisaged for the authorities in the white paper. Shocked into action by the threat of opting out, many authorities once notorious for sloth and inefficiency are fast becoming the responsive, consumer-led organisations they should always have been. Opting out may still appeal to thriving, well-managed schools with parental expertise on tap, but others will be reluctant to sacrifice the knowledge and experience of local education officers. Indeed, the failing schools that will be forced to opt out under Mr Patten's proposals may be least able to do without such support.

If the white paper's title of *Choice and Diversity* is to mean anything, both routes should be allowed. There is more consensus over education than meets the eye. The principles behind the national curriculum and greater management autonomy for schools are well accepted. What matters most for pupils is not the detail of the bureaucratic structure of the education system, but the restoration to state schools of a feeling of ownership and local pride.

## NOUVELLE CUISINE ANGLAISE

A *bombe surprise* is being dished up to the foodies of England today, with the decision by the *The Good Food Guide* to demote one of the Roux brothers' restaurants to a third-class rating. This will be as much of a shock to those Elysian pastures of classy browsing and slicing, as though on an earthen pitch Newcastle United were to be demoted to the GM Vauxhall Conference — a catastrophe that has seemed possible in the past, though mercifully not so far this season.

The Roux brothers are the Frenchmen who formed part of a revolution in English attitudes to food 30 years ago. Before they came over, eating was often felt to be a shameful activity to be performed in the decent privacy of an Englishman's home — or failing that in a hotel approximating as close as possible to the Englishman's home — in silence, with gravy, custard, over-stewed "greens" (a recipe invented for English false teeth and phobia about constipation), and other dismal appurtenances.

In the 1960s the Roux brothers and their peers introduced to Britain the novel notion that food was one of the pleasures of life, and that it is nowhere written down in *Magna Carta que les anglais s'amusent tristement selon l'usage de leur pays*. Two of their restaurants are the only two in Britain to be awarded the top mark of three stars by Michelin, the French *Almanach de Gotha* of the eating arts. One of these, the Water-side Inn at Bray, has today been downgraded by one of the freelance British food inspectors set up in imitation of Michelin.

As downgradings go, this is not as vertical a fall as Lucifer's, being merely from

"excellent cooking" to "a particularly fine example of very good cooking". But for the superstars of *haute cuisine* and their gourmet fans who are prepared to pay £100 for a three-course meal before wine and fizzy water (and for the publicity machine and snobbery that keep them all simmering) this is a serious blow.

The changes in the British attitude to eating out over the past generation have been categorical and beneficial. Bistro-eating has spread from Aberystwyth to Middlesbrough, and Britain has developed its own curry cuisine, as distinctive as the American Chinese. All but the most macho pubs (mainly in the West of Scotland) now serve bar snacks of considerable ambition, even though most of them, *pace* the advertisements, are heated up by microwave rather than home-cooked. Chips, tasting of cardboard are no longer obligatory with everything, except in motorway service stations, and the obsession with health has vastly improved the British attitude to greens.

There is no need to go the whole hog with the French in treating food as a substitute for religion. Yet there is no love more sincere than the love of food. The British attitude to these things needs to be empirical and cool, as the French is theoretical and windsily metaphysical. The improvement in British food, from the top, encouraged by cooks like the Roux brothers, to the lowliest greasy spoon café, is wholesome. But the uproar about subjective and spurious star-ratings of overpriced restaurants, visited mainly on expense accounts, leaves a sour taste.

## Commonwealth library threat

From the High Commissioners for Uganda, Belize, Western Samoa, Cyprus and New Zealand and the Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan

Sir, As High Commissioners representing different regions of the Commonwealth, we are dismayed that the Royal Commonwealth Society's Library is at risk and could be broken up and dispersed around the world because of the financial difficulties it faces.

We wish to state how important this unique collection is to all our countries and to the Commonwealth. It must be saved and placed in the public domain for ever. It is quite simply, irreplaceable.

An appeal to save this unique collection will be launched tomorrow by Sir Patrick Sheehy and his fellow library trustees, and we urge that their efforts be met with firm financial support. We believe that the Commonwealth is a power for good in today's turbulent world — this library explains why.

Yours etc.,

GEORGE KIRYA (Uganda),  
ROBERT LESLIE (Belize),  
A. TOLEAPOA (Western Samoa),  
ANGELOS ANGELIDES (Cyprus),  
GEORGE GAIR (New Zealand),  
KHALID M. SHAFI (Acting High Commissioner, Pakistan),  
Uganda High Commission,  
Uganda House,  
58 Trafalgar Square, WC2.  
September 28.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9CN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Issues of judgment and ethics raised by Mellor case

From Mr William L. M. Conner

Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough writes of "the doubtful moral attitude of a country without religion" and of the "fit of public morality" that brought down Mr Mellor.

There is a price to pay for success in almost every field of human endeavour and the price for the ambitious, high-profile politician is that he must sacrifice much personal privacy. If he cannot make this sacrifice, and blames all his misfortunes on the small-format newspapers, he should seriously consider Harry Truman's advice about the kitchen.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MENDES,  
1 Lower Street, Cavendish, Suffolk.  
September 24.

From Miss Jane Killick

Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough's article (September 25) praising the courage of David Mellor must be welcomed by many. If other leading churchmen had expressed such views over the last few months, perhaps we would not have lost a "secretary of state committed to and with a deep understanding of the arts" letter, same day.

They may now wish to hang on to their jobs at no matter what cost to their dignity and reputation, or to Britain's international standing. But they could at least be seen to comport themselves with some material restraint.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRY SUPPLE,  
The Master's Lodge,  
St Catharine's College,  
Cambridge.  
September 26.

From Mr John Mendes

Sir, Now that the unfortunate Mr Mellor has fallen on his sword is it not time that we buried once and for all the quaint notion that a public man's private life is no concern of the public?

Senior politicians have the power to make radical changes to the way of life of millions of their fellow citizens. Is it really so much to ask that in return we,

Yours faithfully,  
A. B. DUCKER,  
3 Allenby, Lansdown Road,  
Bath, Avon.

September 28.

From Mr Alan Ducker

Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough says that "... the only question which should have been asked about Mr Mellor is the one about his abilities and effectiveness as a minister and member of cabinet".

I beg to differ. Mr Mellor was sent to Parliament in a position of trust. He has been shown as untrustworthy, not least to his family. That's why he had to go.

Yours faithfully,  
A. B. DUCKER,  
3 Allenby, Lansdown Road,  
Bath, Avon.

September 28.

From Mr David Mathews

Sir, By comparing his departure to Captain Oates's sacrifice (report, September 26) is Mr Mellor predicting the same fate for the government as befell Captain Scott's expedition?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MATHews,  
88 Avondale Road,  
South Croydon,  
Surrey.

September 28.

### Coming to the defence of scientific research councils

From Ms Joanna M. Tudor

Sir, Dr K. A. McLaughlan, FRS, refers to a lack of democracy in the research councils (letter, September 17). The scenario he describes is certainly not true for the way grants committees operate within the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

Between four and ten referees are approached for each application, depending on the size of the grant requested. Applicants are invited to nominate two of these.

The remaining referees are identified by committee secretaries who are scientifically qualified in the subject areas of their committees and who use an extensive database as well as advice from all the members of their committee.

Selection of chairmen and committee membership within the NERC is not entrusted to research council officers and committee chairmen. Nominations emerge as a result of a long and well-established consultative process and appointments are made by council.

Dr McLaughlan also suggests that eminent scientists who spend a lot of time overseas are unable to serve on

committees. Most of our UK committee members are working scientists who enjoy international respect and travel abroad frequently. Grants meetings occasionally have to be missed, but in these cases written comments are normally provided.

It is also our policy to include overseas representatives on grants committees to ensure that applications are judged from an international perspective.

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together under this heading.

MCCs are supposedly being retained to ensure that courts do not come under executive domination. Yet some are now training magistrates into an awareness of the effect on these decisions. Others are basing the frequency of magistrates' sittings upon whether or not they claim expenses.

According to a consultation document issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department, the committees are soon to be policed by an inspectorate which, to quote Whitehall, "will not be at arm's length from the Department". It will also have the power to impose conditions which could lead to the removal by the Lord Chancellor of both MCCs and justices' clerks.

The independence of our magistrates' courts, which deal with 95 per cent of all criminal cases, may thus be at serious risk.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DAVIS,  
54 Woodlands Road,  
Bookham, Surrey.

September 17.

From Miss Isabel Mant

Sir, I read Bronie Flecker's defence of boarding schools with interest (letter, September 25). I imagine that she knows as little about my state comprehensive and sixth-form college education as I do about hers at Marlborough.

The point is that her "wealth of opportunities", as described, sound exactly like mine. What this has to do with boarding is not clear to me.

Yours faithfully,  
ISABEL MANT (student),  
Vardean Sixth-form College,  
Surrey Road,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

From Mr Christopher Boulter

Sir, Mr E. G. F. Johnson writes (September 25) of the nomenclature of siblings in prep school, i.e., maximus, major, minor and minimus. I had always thought major, minor, tertius, quartus, quintus, sextus and et al was the norm.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER BOULTER,  
Magistrates' Clerk's Office,  
Law Courts, County Civic Centre,  
Mold, Clwyd.

September 28.

### Judges' pensions

From Mr Stephen Gratwick, QC

Sir, Lord Ackner's letter (September 25) should serve as a red light to those who propose to implement the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill, whose provisions he describes as a reduction in salary for judges and "parsimonious". I know of no walk of life in which the ultimate promotion is accompanied by severe financial penalty. The cabinet minister is paid more than the backbencher, yet the judge is far worse off after his appointment than he was at the Bar, and incomparably worse off than his coequals in industry or the professions.

Those who govern should never forget that there is an inertia in the affairs of mankind: the change made today may not show its full effect until

many years later. They should also remember that, at one time, the bribing of judges became a scandal. Part of the cure was to pay a salary, which removed temptation.

Some are known to have declined judicial appointment because they were unwilling to accept the financial penalty involved. The planned changes to judicial pensions to which Lord Ackner refers will make matters worse. If the trend is not stopped and reversed this country will get a second-rate judiciary, made up of those who were not good enough to succeed at the Bar. What will the position be in ten or 20 years' time? It is unthinkable that a judge should accept a bribe. Could it never happen again?

Yours faithfully,  
S. GRATWICK.

11 South Square, Gray's Inn, WC1.

September 28.

From Mr James Waghorn

Sir, "Constant pleading to be allowed

to board" is not, in itself, a justification for sending a young child to boarding school (Clark Hampson's letter, September 25). Moreover, children should be able "to be who they really are" within the context of their own family and home community without resorting to an artificial society for so much of their childhood.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
September 28: The Prince Edward, Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today opened the Haking International Centre, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon).

Mr Richard Warburton was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, President, International Equestrian Federation, this afternoon held an Executive Board Meeting at Windsor Castle.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the opening session of the Consultation on "The Rio Conference: Questions for Britain" followed by a dinner at St George's House, Windsor Castle.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

September 28: The Prince of Wales today visited Suffolk and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk (Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt).

His Royal Highness attended an Agricultural Show at Winton, held on the occasion of the visit to the United Kingdom of the European Community Agriculture

Ministers, followed by lunch at Helingham Hall.

Commander Richard Ayard was in attendance. The Prince of Wales departed from Royal Air Force Wainham for a visit to Rome and Bologna.

Mr Peter Westmacott is in attendance.

The Princess of Wales this morning visited the West London Day Centre for single homeless and rootless people at 136 Seymour Place, London W1.

Mr Patrick Jephcott was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
September 28: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited the Decorex International 1992 Exhibition at Syon Park, Brentford.

The Lady Glencouer was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
September 28: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President, and Sir Angus Ogiby this afternoon attended a Luncheon in aid of the Care in Crisis Fund of the British Red Cross at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.



Models wearing outfits nominated for designer of the year parading at the V & A yesterday in the British fashion awards. The costumes were created by (from left) John Richmond, Vivienne Westwood, Rifat Ozek and Catherine Walker

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Guinness Trust, will visit the trust's housing estate at Stamford Hill at 11.30.

The Princess Royal, as Master of the Lorraine's Company, will attend a trade liaison and finance committee meeting at Alderman's Court, Guildhall, at 9.30; as Patron of the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, will attend the annual conference at Glaziers' Hall at 12.45; will attend a presentation given by the Royal Naval Presentation Team at St James's Palace at 6.15 for the White Ensign Association; and, as President of Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend the annual working dinner for vice-presidents at the Institution of Civil Engineers at 8.00.

Princess Margaret will attend a reception given by the Air League at the RAF Club at 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will open Staverton Way, Leigh Park, Havant, at 11.25; will visit the Havant Housing Association, Maple House, Leigh Park, at 11.55; will open the new Park Community School, Leigh Park, at 12.15; and will open the new Southampton City Youth Training Centre, 18 Melbourne Street, Southampton, at 2.10.

The Duchess of Kent will open The Garden, a new house for girls at Repton School, at 10.50; will visit the headquarters of the Disabled Persons Housing Service in Derby at noon; will open the Eagle Centre covered market and shopping centre in Derby at 12.35; and will visit the Royal School for the Deaf, Derby, at 1.10.

## Memorial services

The Right Rev John Trillo

The Lord Lieutenant of Essex attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and works of the Right Rev John Trillo, died yesterday in Chelmsford Cathedral. The Bishop of Chelmsford officiated and the Right Rev Thomas McMahon, Roman Catholic Bishop of Brentwood, led the prayers.

Mr David Trillo, son, and Canon Gordon Hewitt, read the lessons. The Right Rev Derek Bond gave an address.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Bishop of Derby, the Bishop of Colchester, the Bishop of Barking, the Right Rev John Gibbs, the Right Rev R.N. Cook, the Right Rev James Rondrian, the Right Rev James Adams, the Archdeacon of Colchester, the Archdeacon of Barking, the Ven Peter Bridge, the Dean of Bristol, the Provost, Chapter and non-residentary canons of Chelmsford Cathedral and the Chancellor and the Registrar of the Chelmsford Diocese were robed and in the choir.

The High Sheriff of Essex, the Chairman of Essex County Council, the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford and the Deputy Mayor of Colchester attended.

Mrs Ursula Thorpe

A memorial service for Mrs Ursula Thorpe was held yesterday at St Andrews, Luton. Chari, Surrey. The Rev Sally Lessan officiated, assisted by the Rev Donald Parsons.

His Honour Arthur Cohen read the lesson and the Bishop of Coventry gave an address.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS**

**DEATHS**

**CARRIERS**

**RUTHENFORD**

**COLLINS**

**COLLYMORE**

**COWARD**

**COWLEY**

## OBITUARIES

## SIR FRANCIS WATSON

Sir Francis Watson, KCVO, FBA, FSA, director of the Wallace Collection from 1963 until his retirement in 1974, died in Wiltshire on September 27 aged 85. He was born in Worcester on August 24, 1907.

FOR many years the name of Francis Watson was synonymous with that of the Wallace Collection. By far the greater part of his working life was spent in the service of the collection left to the nation by Lady Wallace on her death in 1897. Watson joined the staff in his early thirties as an assistant keeper under Sir James Mann and succeeded to the directorship on the latter's death in 1962. The next year he followed Mann in another crucial appointment, that of Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art.

It was in the ten years after the war, part of which Watson had spent on secondment to the Admiralty, that he built up his great reputation as a leading authority on the arts of France and Italy in the eighteenth century, with particular reference to the applied arts of the period. This culminated in the publication in 1956 of the *Catalogue of Furniture in the Wallace Collection*, which broke new ground in the field of serious catalogues of objects other than painting and sculpture. It achieved international acclaim and was followed by several works in the same vein. Among the most important was Watson's *The Wrightsman Collection*, published between 1966 and 1970, a scholarly and meticulous account of the collection, starting with furniture, of Mr and Mrs Charles B. Wrightsman, which he helped to form.

But Francis Watson was far from being merely a furniture expert. He was equally knowledgeable about painting. In 1949 he published a useful book on the paintings of

*Canaleto*, which went into a second edition in 1954. He also wrote shorter books on Giambattista Tiepolo and Fragonard.

His upbringing was solidly middle-class. His father was a headmaster and Francis Watson was educated at Shrewsbury and St John's College, Cambridge. He had the misfortune to graduate in 1929 when congenital work was even harder to find for a 22 year old than it is now. He struggled for some time in London on very little money. But he spoke well, was good at socialising and wrote fluently. He had always set his heart on a career in the fine arts and eventually got a foot in the door at the Courtauld, where he became the first registrar in 1934, staying there until 1938.

The two great formative influences in Watson's scholarly life were his close friendships with John D. K. Lloyd and with Charles F. Bell, formerly Keeper of Fine Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. To both men he owed in large measure the mental discipline and inspiration which he later displayed in his own chosen fields of study. He became a fluent writer and in addition to his books was a regular contributor to *The Times Literary Supplement*. Anonymity in some areas suited him and he wrote a number of obituaries for this page; if he did not feel capable of the assignment himself then he was usually ready with the right name.

Watson's growing expertise on the eighteenth century in particular made him an indispensable source of advice on the whole of this period of art history. Because of it he was eventually appointed Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art, in succession to Sir James Mann. With his polished manner and easy courtesy he was able to move with poise in royal circles. But he was always ready to give recommendations to more modest collectors and several friends benefited from his words on whether



to buy and whether to sell, especially the latter. Francis Watson was appointed MVO in 1959, CVO in 1965, and finally created KCVO in 1973.

He was the first chairman of the Furniture History Society which he was instrumental in forming, and of

Wrightsman Professor, New York University, 1970-71, having received the Gold Medal of that institution in 1966.

After his retirement from the Wallace Collection he held a number of academic appointments in the United States, principally the Kress Professorship at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, 1975-76. There was also the private sector: the work done for the Wrightsmans gained him some renown and other collectors were anxious to retain his services.

The Watson personality was both attractive and engaging. At the head of his qualities was a great and ever youthful enthusiasm for becoming involved in art historical activities of every kind. His participation brooked no opposition and his ideas were sometimes put through by rather unconventional methods. He had the collector's boyish delight in getting something for nothing, or for next to nothing, both for himself and for those who employed him. This trait, possibly a reflection of those hard early years, remained with him throughout his life and career. While at the Wallace he took a quiet delight in showing selected friends a small cache of erotic china.

From his earliest days he was a polished speaker. He could hold the attention of a specialist audience for an hour while discussing a single snuff-box; his lecture, "The Choiseul Box", was good enough to be published by the OUP. But his command of anecdote was also in demand by his family. When there were anniversaries or weddings to be celebrated then Francis was always earmarked for the major speech. He was a cook of skill and discernment and an attractive letter writer, able to ring the changes on half-a-dozen subjects in one or two sheets.

His wife Mary died in 1969. Thereafter he derived much happiness from his adopted Chinese son.

## EDWARD WARBURG

Edward Mortimer Morris Warburg, American philanthropist and benefactor of the arts, died of heart failure in Norwalk, Connecticut, on September 21 aged 84. He was born in White Plains, New York, on June 5, 1908.

NO ONE in his right mind, Edward Warburg once said, would have got involved with American ballet in the early 1930s. The art form was an unknown quantity in the United States at that time, and he himself admitted that music was quite foreign to him. But Warburg, who was already challenging contemporary tastes with exhibitions of modern painting and sculpture, was undeterred. Together with Lincoln Kirstein, a former classmate at Harvard, he founded the American Ballet in 1933. The successful company, led by George Balanchine, was the precursor of the New York City Ballet.

The youngest of five children in a well-to-do New York banking family, Warburg grew up in an atmosphere of wealth and a tradition of philanthropy. While an undergraduate at Harvard he helped form the Harvard Soci-

ety of Contemporary Art, holding exhibitions in rented rooms of work by such artists as Edward Hopper and Georgia O'Keeffe. By 1932 he had become a founder of New York's Museum of Modern Art, serving on its board of trustees until 1953, and organising the museum's film library.

With time out for service in the second world war, during which he served in the US Army and took part in the invasion of Normandy, Warburg was active in philanthropic and relief organisations from 1939 onwards. He received decorations from the Belgian and Italian governments for his work with displaced persons after the war, was national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal from 1950 to 1955, and a member of the New York State Board of Regents from 1958 to 1975.

During the pre-war years he was an active art collector, acquiring works by Picasso, Matisse, Hopper, O'Keeffe, Lachaise, Klee, Miró, Brancusi and Calder. Many of these he later donated to the Museum of Modern Art and other museums.

He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

Cesar Manrique, who devoted much of his life to trying to protect his native island of Lanzarote from the ravages of mass tourism, has died aged 72. Among his successes was the banning of roadside advertising.

## RALPH MANHEIM



Ralph Frederick Manheim, linguist and translator, died at his home in Cambridge on September 26 aged 85. He was born in New York City on April 19, 1907.

RALPH Manheim was so far ahead of other translators into the English language that he was in a class of his own. A modern foreign classic was always that much more certainly appraised if it had his imprint. Yet, because translation is so poorly paid, this translator of Brecht, Hans Arp, Hesse, Proust (some of the letters), Hitler (*Mein Kampf*, a job he found very distasteful, but did well: he managed to extract what meaning the scarcely literate author put into it), Durkheim, Günter Grass, the Swiss jurist Bachteler, and dozens of others, did not achieve financial security until he received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago — which gave him an annual \$1,000 for each year of his age, thereby increasing as he grew older.

It is impossible to point to his greatest triumph, but Grass's *Tin Drum* and some of the very difficult and colloquial novels of Louis-Ferdinand Céline must come very high on a long list. He translated not only from the French and German but also, on occasion, from the Polish, the Dutch and even the Serbo-Croat. Nor did financial security in old age prevent him from working: he had finished Grass's latest novel, *The Call of the Toad*, not long before his final illness.

Manheim had graduated from Harvard before he was 20, one of the very few to have done so. He had already travelled in Germany and knew the language intimately — and only a little later he came to know French. He was interested in translation wholly for its own sake, which is really what turned him into the most expert translator of all. But, while he translated passages from his favourite books for pleasure, he also needed to

make a living. He did some teaching, worked as a writer for New Deal projects and did technical translations.

After the war, much of which he spent in the army as a translator of German military documents, he could at last take to translating this kind of material in which he was interested — contemporary novels, art books and philosophy. He translated many key works by the philosopher Karl Jaspers, and even struggled with the opaque *Introduction to Metaphysics* of the ex-Nazi Martin Heidegger, long ago dubbed by more orthodox philosophers as a "purveyor of literal nonsense". He did some run-of-the-mill work for money, such as a novel by Erich Maria Remarque, but kept to the best as he could.

Manheim was married four times. His fourth wife and fellow American, Julia, who devotedly nursed him throughout his last illness, survives him. His place will be held by his son, William.

Colin Humphreys (obituary, September 21) was an elegant and witty draughtsman. Once in those happy, far-off days when the Air Ministry still existed he ad-

vised his staff in a memorandum which referred to "the seven separate subtleties of a Château Lafite". I asked him what these were. I said I could distinguish three or possibly four, but not seven. He said: "I made it up. It sounds good."

William Pools



assembled (Sandy Shaw was the Blessed Virgin and Patrick Lichfield St Joseph). Thanks to Adel's great kindness it gave much delight to the crowds of visitors to the Abbey.

The crib was eventually

## Colin Humphreys

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Sir Ronald Methven

whatever is placed therein. The ashes fall into a receptacle, and at the close of this process are withdrawn, and can be either preserved or buried. The option of complete disposal in the case of human remains usually occupies about an hour. The sheep, however, took rather longer to consume, owing to its heavier weight and to the circumstance that the eight holes in the side of the furnace were frequently opened to afford the visitors the opportunity of watching the progress of cremation. At the close of the operation the whitened ashes of the animal were withdrawn, and fragments were taken away by many of the visitors as mementoes.

It appears that the Cremation Society has been established for 13 years, during which period 138 cremations have taken place. The number has increased each year and, as showing the growth of this method of disposal, it may be stated that there were 100 cremations up to the end of last year, 38 having taken place during the present year.

It was stated that cremation societies have been established in the provinces and that there is a growing recognition of the necessity for cremation in large and over-populated centres. After some remarks from Dr Richardson, the president of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, the visitors proceeded to inspect the private cremating chamber erected for the Duke of Bedford, which is a few feet to the rear of the public chamber.

The arrangements here are similar to those in the public chamber, and the furnace opens into a flue leading to the same chimney as the other. The crematory urns and other arrangements were also inspected. It was stated that ashes of cremated adults weigh from 4 lbs to 7 lbs. and occupy a space corresponding to about three-quarters of a gallon. There was an opinion in favour of cremation upon public and sanitary grounds, although some objections were taken to it on the score of sentiment.

## SEPT 29 ON THIS DAY 1890

The Woking crematorium first opened in 1879 but was closed by the local authorities. It was used sporadically thereafter until 1890 when the movement was given an additional boost by the holding of an international conference in Berlin.

WOKING CREMATORIUM

On Saturday last about ninety members of the Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors paid a visit of inspection to the crematorium, St. John's, Woking, upon the invitation of the Cremation Society of England.

The crematorium, which stands in a little over an acre of ground, consists of a spacious chapel in which the funeral rites are performed. This building opens through a passageway into the cremating chamber, in which is the furnace, which is specially constructed and so arranged that all the gases and products of combustion pass away underground to a main chimney shaft a few yards from the building. At the base of the shaft is a coke furnace, under which the products of combustion from the cremating furnace are brought, and through the incandescent body of which they have to pass upwards in their way out of the chimney. By this means perfect combustion is attained, no smoke or unburned gases passing out at the chimney top except for a few seconds at the moment of firing-up.

Upon the occasion of the visit in question the cremation of an animal was performed, in order to show the practical working of the system. The animal was a sheep, the carcass of which was placed on an iron carrier and run into the furnace, the carrier being then withdrawn and the furnace door closed. The flames and heat from the furnace are made to traverse that portion of it in which the body is placed, and they in time utterly consume

## Astronomy

## The sky at night in October

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE, ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is a -0.3 magnitude evening star throughout the month but will be difficult to see as it remains low in the south-west after sunset, setting no more than an hour after the Sun. Greatest eastern elongation (24 deg) is on the 31st. The two-day old crescent Moon will be just above Mercury on the evening of the 27th.

Venus is also an evening star but much brighter than Mercury at -3.9 magnitude. By the end of October, Venus will set in darkness and should be easily visible low in the south-west at dusk. The crescent Moon will be above Venus on the 28th, with the bright star Antares below the planet and Mercury lower still and to the north. Venus will move quickly away from the horizon during November to become a brilliant evening object over Christmas and setting as late as 20h by the new year.

Mars has brightened to -0.2 mag by the end of the month as it moves towards opposition on the 7th January 1993. The red planet is just coming over the north-eastern horizon by 21h in late October, in the constellation Gemini and not

far from the bright stars Castor and Pollux. The waning gibbous Moon will be nearby on the 18th.

Astronomical Twilight ends at 19h 30m and 18h 30m early and late in the month and begins again at 04h 05m and 05h 00m.

Algol, the eclipsing binary star in Perseus, fades from its usual brightness of 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours, taking about five hours to fade and another five hours to recover normal brightness. It rises by 05h 30m and in a dark sky late in the month. The Moon will be to the south on the 23rd/24th.

Saturn is low in the southwest by 23h late in October in the constellation of Capricornus. The 0.4 mag planet is stationary on the 16th, after which its motion against the stars will be direct or towards the east. The Moon will be nearby on the 5th/6th.

Uranus is in Sagittarius setting by 20h 30m on the 31st.

Neptune is close to Uranus and sets about the same time. The Moon is near the two planets on the 3rd/4th and again on the 30th/31st.

The Moon: first quarter, 3d 14h; full Moon, 11d 18h; last quarter, 19d 04h; new Moon, 23d 21h.

This October's full Moon will be the Hunter's Moon, the full Moon following the Harvest Moon (that nearest the date of the autumn equinox).

Sunset on the 1st is at 17h 40m and on the 31st at 16h

35m while sunrise is at 06h 00m and 06h 50m on the same dates.

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Faint, extended objects like galaxies and nebulae require a dark, transparent sky but also the observer should be shielded from any direct lights, even quite distant ones, and take time to adapt to the darkness. This "dark adaption" takes 20 minutes.

The two right-hand stars of the Square of Pegasus provide a convenient guide to the 1.2 magnitude star Fomalhaut in the constellation Pisces Austrini.

The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (8 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time.

At places away from the Greenwich Mean Time, London, the diagram applies as Universal Time. The time expressed in 24-hour notation is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

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## Smith is given a dream start

Continued from page 1  
Smith's support for Maastricht and the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Tony Benn, who retained his executive place, led the demands for "the biggest constitutional change this century" to be put to the country in a referendum. But delegates heeded the warning of Gerald Kaufman, former shadow foreign secretary, that Maastricht was the government's problem and the conference should not make it Labour's.

Today, in his first speech to the conference as leader, Mr Smith will launch a blistering attack on "an inactive government led by an inactive prime minister". He will accuse John Major of doing nothing about unemployment and economic recovery and of wasting Britain's presidency of the European Community.

The defeat of Mr Skinner, who had spent 14 years on the executive, was the biggest surprise in yesterday's changeover in the Labour high command. A defiant Mr Skinner declared that he would continue to be the voice of the left in Parliament. "No-one has died," he said.

Mr Gould's vote was halved, leaving him without a power base from which to launch his effort to change the Labour stance on Europe. The votes were cast before the internal party dispute over Europe, and Mr Gould suggested last night that his defeat might have been a reaction to the leadership contest in which he challenged Mr Smith. "I think the constituents were influenced, perhaps irrationally, by the fact that I had fought a losing campaign in the leadership contest and that they wanted to support the new leadership and not the losing candidate," he said.

Mr Kinnock was delighted by the vote. He said: "It is a very strong national executive with the authority that comes from one member, one vote. It is up to date and forward looking."

Mr Brown was elected in third place at the first attempt. A trouble-free day for Mr Smith was rounded off with the news that Hilary Armstrong, his parliamentary private secretary, had also been elected in the NEC women's section.

Smith victory, page 10  
Diary, page 14



Colleagues' grief: staff of Pakistan International Airlines at Kathmandu airport weeping after hearing the news of the Airbus crash

## Descent into Kathmandu fills pilots with fear

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE approach to Kathmandu airport, the scene of two air crashes within three months, has become one of the most feared of all flown by international airline pilots.

Accident investigators will be anxious to establish what setting the pilot had put into his altimeter to indicate that the runway was well above sea level. If the setting was incorrect before take-off, the aircraft would have been too low without the pilot realising it and he would have flown down towards the ground in cloud unaware that he was near to crashing until a sudden voice ground proximity warning sounded.

The Airbus A300 is one of the most popular, and until now, safest of aircraft flying. It was the first in the family of Airbus jets to be conceived and so far a total of 248 have been delivered worldwide. Unlike its successor the short ranged A320, the A300 is not "fly-by-wire" and it has a conventional central control column.

A total of six A300s have been lost, including one belonging to Iran Air shot down by the US Navy in the Gulf. None of the others that have crashed have involved loss of life, although the aircraft have been write-offs.

## Missionary family among 35 Britons killed in Airbus crash

Continued from page 1

As the weather can often be bad, pilots now have to keep a careful check on instruments to ensure that they are properly lined up with the runway. The airline begins the descent into the airport — it's built 4,313ft above sea level — at sixteen miles to the south and a height of 11,500ft. At ten miles out the mountains rise steeply to more than 7,000ft, which they should cross at a height of 9,500ft before dropping to 6,800ft at six miles and 5,200ft at four miles. If the runway cannot be seen clearly at two miles from touchdown, pilots are told that they should go around again.

The Pakistan International Airlines Airbus 300, which crashed yesterday, appeared to have hit the mountainside at 7,500ft when it should have been at 9,000ft.

The airport is a VOR radio beacon, a distance measuring device showing how far from touchdown the aircraft is, and a locator to enable an instrument approach to 900ft. It is not, however, covered by radar, and pressure has been growing on the Nepalese authorities for some form of ground control to be introduced as soon as possible.

David Harley, principal of the All Nations college, said: "This is terribly sad for all of us at the college. They were a loving, pleasant ordinary family. God taught us that we will live on, but that cannot take away the enormity of the human loss in such a tragedy."

Jenny Taylor, spokesman for the Interserve charity, said:

"It is the most terrible

flight to Kathmandu for the start of the tourist season.

The three Britons who were booked on the flight through Bridge the World were said to be a couple and one individual. Jerry Bridge, managing director, said the couple were thought to be on a "round-the-world dream ticket" while the third booking, a woman, was going on a trekking holiday.

Keith Beswick, managing director of Quest Worldwide Travel of Kingston, southwest London, said they had booked six people on the flight, one couple and four travelling separately, from Berkshire, Birmingham, Wales and Middlesex. "They would have gone on trekking holidays independently. They all had return flights to come back in three or up to nine weeks," Mr Beswick added. "The situation looks very bleak."

Most of the passengers were from Nepal, returning from the Hindu Dassai festival which began on Sunday.

The Foreign Office issued

the following telephone numbers for people who may have had relatives on board the Airbus: Office hours: 071-270

4112. Other times: 071-839

1010.



thing. Travel is always something that is dangerous for our workers, just getting on a bus in Nepal can be dangerous."

Melissa Colston, marketing manager, at Encounter Overland, where two other crash victims worked, said: "Obviously everyone here is very upset at the news. Our two colleagues were flying out on business. It's very upsetting for all concerned. The pair left Heathrow on Sunday evening bound for Karachi where they picked up the connecting

flight to Kathmandu for the start of the tourist season.

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Keith Beswick, managing

director of Quest Worldwide

Travel of Kingston, southwest

London, said they had booked

## Political sketch

### Minus a seal, the circus carries on

Welcome, says my brother, from *Tower World*, "to Blackpool's newest, most exciting day out!" The Tower complex offers seven levels of excitement on seven floors. It costs just £5.50. Up the road, the Winter Gardens complex is offering a rival programme. It is free. It is called *The 91st Labour Party Conference*. Against a conference backdrop designed to recall an airport lounge in Bahrain, perhaps, circa 1979 — a packed house thrills to spectacles as rare and strange as anything you can find in Blackpool.

At *Tower World* (level 2), "an all-time favourite, the *Tower Circus*" continues to delight the kids. Yesterday at the Winter Gardens the *Comrades' Circus* got off to a rocky start when Bryan, one of the performing seals, quit. He was fed up with trying to balance a particularly slippery blue ball decorated with 12 yellow stars on his nose. His exit has caused a certain amount of tut-tutting among the clowns, but a new seal will be found, and the show goes on.

It started yesterday morning with a rip-roaring speech from Labour's economic spokesman, Gordon Brown. I hardly heard a word of it. I was too absorbed by what he was doing with his tongue.

Have you watched him on TV? What do you think is happening inside his mouth? My own theory is that he is juggling two or three heavy ball-bearings on the end of his tongue. Where a Tory spokesman may speak with a plizz in his mouth, it is fitting that Labour's man does it with ball-bearings.

"Why should millions of pounds..." Brown is beginning to jerk his head to emphasize words in that turkey-like head-but which Neil Kinnock made famous: "... go to a few of the world's richest men?" His style is sulky-angry, jowly, aquiver, sub-Lawson style. You can hear the ball-bearings colliding. But then he stops, momentarily, for air.

Watch his gupe, mouth agape, between sentences. Tongue makes a sudden dart forward, curling down over bottom teeth and plumping the space between lower gum and lip. Is this man perhaps fishing to rock his tongue out at you but

most of the passengers were from Nepal, returning from the Hindu Dassai festival which began on Sunday.

The Foreign Office issued

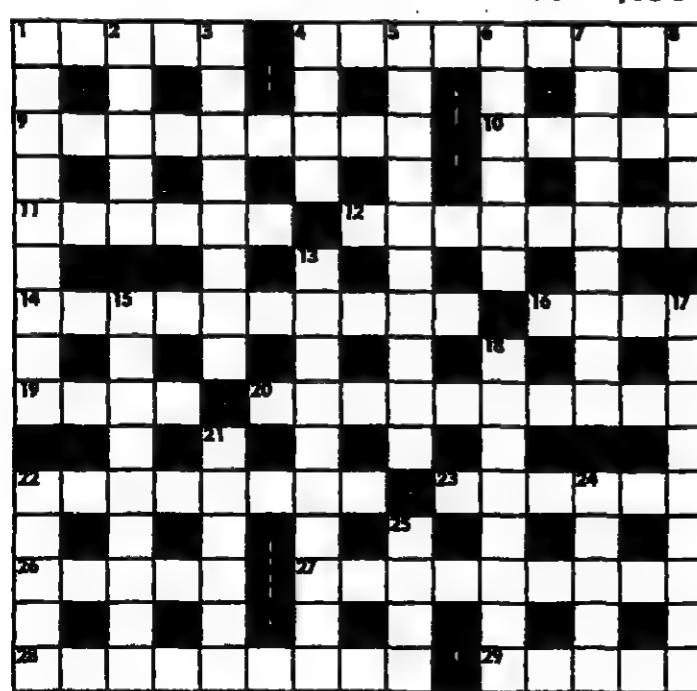
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4112. Other times: 071-839

1010.

MATTHEW PARRIS

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,036



ACROSS  
1 Disagreement about pound coin (5).  
4 Meat has tough fibre and tendon (9).  
9 Tied labour force in Scotland go on the links (5,3).  
10 Heater won't start? Well! (5).  
11 Duplicate election (3,3).  
12 Warning cries before shot in wooded country (8).  
14 Winston Smith was watched by this earlier arrival (3,7).  
16 Influential American lived quietly (4).  
19 Not, we're told, the start of the branch line (4).  
20 Jam at top of container (6-4).  
22 Pit nearly dark? Nearly (8).  
23 Hear bird give tongue (6).  
26 Leather loses hardness in either (5).  
  
DOWN  
1 Fellow burglin', say — bird shot him (4,5).  
2 A person I captured using force (5).  
3 Go off slowly, beginning to hobble and fearing collapse (4,4).  
4 Why fire is hard to swallow? (4).  
5 Get mention for working late (10).  
6 On the spike, journalist's last scoop (6).  
7 Embarrassed, but I will take a joke (3,2,4).  
8 In danger — mysteriously infected (5).  
13 Game, say, may give offence (6-4).  
15 Malign god made the town (9).  
17 Old cave-dweller was a capital fellow out East (6,3).  
18 Fairy stripped off and got cold (8).  
21 Gold coin a girl found (6).  
22 City of delight as wife put on ring (5,5).  
24 ... his gift, initially, to some extent? (5).  
25 Foreign secretary was gloomy (4).  
  
Solutions to Puzzle No 19,035

FACE CLOTH RABAT  
I A R B A U O H  
RANKED RESTORE  
S N A U A I M F  
TOAST RESILIENT  
R I A S E R  
ALIENATE CANT  
T N G E S G N R  
ERSE STRANGLE  
T T C R R A  
DEATHRIDE OWLET  
A N R S B T L M  
RETRACT SATIATE  
T E G D E E M N  
SERGE HEDBREAST

Concise crossword, page 11  
Life & Times section

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**SLEAVE**

a. The sleeve of a herald's tabard

b. To speak scurrilously

c. A filament of silk

**SLUGHORN**

a. The horn of a snail

b. A noisy sleeper

c. A sponger

**SORNER**

a. To wring with

b. A noisy sleeper

c. Beaten in a swimming race

Answers on page 16

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs) ... 731

M-ways/roads M1-Darford T ... 732

M-ways/roads M23-M4 ... 734

M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only ... 735

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways ... 737

West Country ... 738

Wales ... 739

Midlands ... 740

North East England ... 742

North East England ... 743

Scotland ... 744

North Ireland ... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest regional weather forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London

Kent, Surrey, Sussex

Essex & Herts

Beds, Bucks, Oxon

Northants & Beds

W. Midlands & Sth Gwent

West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent

Shrops, Herefs & Warks

Central Midlands

West Lancs & Sth Cheshire

Lancs & Humber

Dyfed & Powys

Gwynedd & Cardig

Wales

W. & S. Yorks & Dales

N. E. England

Cumbria & Lake District

S. & Central Scotland

Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders

W. Central Scotland

Glenfinnan & E. Highlands

N. W. Scotland

Cairngorms, Orkney & Shetland

N. Ireland

Weather is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## WEATHER

Patchy fog should clear by mid-morning, although some north-eastern and southern coasts may stay dull and misty. Most places will be dry and quite warm for a time, with a little sunshine. Rain and freshening winds will spread from the west across Northern Ireland and much of western and southern Britain during the day. The south-west may clear up later. Outlook: rain in the north and the east will clear tomorrow morning; it will then be mostly dry, bright and cooler. Showers in the north.

## ABROAD

MONDAY: 1 Thunder, d-drizzles, s-light rain, s-mist, s-snow, f-low, c-cloud, f-fog, r-rain, m-mist, t-thunder, b-breeze, g





## Thank you, Scotland.

Thank you for ten years of understanding. Ten years of commitment. Ten years of success.

On the 1st of October 1982, we opened the gates of a brand new plant in Livingston. NEC Semiconductors (UK) Ltd.

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NEC is the world's largest supplier of semiconductor devices. A position we've achieved by producing only products of the highest quality and reliability.

Which is why we invested £175m equipping NEC Livingston with the most advanced semiconductor technology in the world.

We are one of Europe's biggest wafer fabrication facilities, manufacturing a range of memory and microcomputer devices with special emphasis on the 4Mbit DRAM.

In 1991, we were awarded a National Training Award, a reflection of our commitment to training and teamwork.

Because it's teamwork that has brought us the success we enjoy today. Success with customers, suppliers and the local community of Livingston. Thank you. Here's to the next ten years.

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**NEC**

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# MMI claims rescue talks with French are still on

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND DOUGLAS BROOM

MUNICIPAL Mutual Insurance (MMI), the insurance company that provides cover for the vast majority of Britain's local authorities, has denied claims that rescue takeover talks with the Eurosafe group of French insurance companies have collapsed.

Some weekend reports suggested that La Garantie Municipale des Fonctionnaires, the French insurer heading the Eurosafe group, had decided to pull out of the negotiations. MMI, Britain's ninth largest insurer, has severe financial problems and takeover by the French is likely to be its only chance of survival.

In a statement issued yesterday, Brian Wright, MMI chief executive, confirmed that the talks were continuing. "The transfer of MMI's business is complex and we have to ensure that the transfer is effected in the best way to

protect the interests of policyholders. Given this complexity, it is not surprising that the process of structuring the transfer has been protracted. Our discussions with GMF are continuing." MMI continued to write new business and pay out claims in full, he added.

Mr Wright and other MMI directors will meet leaders from the associations of county, district and metropolitan councils at Church House, Westminster, today.

Local authorities have been advised that if MMI went into liquidation they would have grounds to sue the directors and liquidators to recover unpaid compensation.

A spokesman said: "We have been told that litigation could take up to 20 years to complete if MMI goes down."

If the talks with the French do fail, the collapse of MMI or its withdrawal from public liability underwriting would be a major headache for the treasurers of Britain's local authorities. MMI has dominated the local authority public liability market for a decade by aggressively chasing business through quoting very low premium rates.

The composite insurers, most of which have underwritten little local authority business since the early 1980s, would be unlikely to return to a market of which they have so little recent experience without being compensated with very substantial increases in premium rates.

Lloyd's, with its greater flexibility and willingness to underwrite unusual risks, might be more prepared to take on the local authority accounts, but would also charge higher rates.

Clwyd County Council in North Wales yesterday issued a strong denial of newspaper reports that MMI had put pressure on it and neighbouring Gwynedd council to suppress a report on child abuse council homes in the two counties.

## Standard Chartered wins third big payoff

By JON ASHWORTH

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, is in line for its third big legal payoff in less than six months.

The bank has settled proceedings it brought in the New South Wales Supreme Court over an A\$100 million loan to GPI Leisure Corporation, an Australian hotel and leisure group, in May 1988. Standard will receive A\$71.5 million (£29.8 million) in cash, subject to a number of preconditions being satisfied within the next 90 days. A further A\$30 million has been raised from the sale of assets.

The defendants included Australian National Industries, Spedley Securities and two former directors of ANI and Spedley. GPI Leisure was also a plaintiff in the proceedings.

All parties are reasonably confident that the preconditions will be satisfied and that payment will be made. If not, the litigation will resume at the earliest available court date. The settlement will be included in the 1992 accounts.

Standard's shares ended the day unchanged at 467p. The banking group was hit by a high incidence of bad debts after winning an Australian banking licence in 1986. No further cases are pending in the Australian courts.

In June, the bank agreed to an out of court payment of US\$62 million from Coopers & Lybrand to compensate for loans it made to Miniscribe, a former Californian computer company.

A month earlier, a court in Arizona decided that Price Waterhouse should pay \$33.8 million compensation for negligence in preparing the 1985 and 1986 audits of United Bank of Arizona which Standard bought in 1987. Price Waterhouse attacked the verdict as "outrageous, incomprehensible and indefensible" and has appealed.

Proceedings have begun in India in an attempt to recoup US\$376 million in losses stemming from the Bombay financial markets scandal. Standard has made precautionary provisions of £50 million against potential losses.

## Linread in profit at half-time

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LINREAD, the maker of precision components for the aerospace and motor industries, has turned from loss into profit in the six months ended June 27, but in a return to its traditional pattern of dividend payments the half-time payout is 1.5p a share, compared with 2p previously.

Interim pre-tax profits were £1.05 million, compared with a pre-tax loss of £1.37 million last time.

Gearing has been reduced from a December year-end level of 59 per cent to 44 per cent, and heavy losses within the commercial-products division have been eliminated.

Linread says there is increasing pressure on margins in the aerospace sector, but with interim turnover at £20 million (£11.6 million) the group has overall managed to achieve a slightly greater penetration in an generally reduced market.

The Birmingham group gives a warning, however, that economic conditions in Britain and the world at large have increased the uncertainty in the industries it serves, especially in the car sector.

The shares rose 1p to 73p.

Lang: spectacular growth

## STOCK MARKET

## Pharmaceutical sector suffers

ICI, still regarded as an accurate barometer of British industry, tumbled 63p to £11.48 after giving the City a timely reminder that the recession is far from over.

Hoare Govett, one of its own brokers, underlined just how difficult trading conditions remain by carrying out a swinging downgrading of its profit forecasts. Hoare has cut its estimate for the current year by £160 million to £620 million and for 1993 by £125 million to £875 million.

The third quarter, which ends later this week, has been a difficult time for the group, with bulk chemicals continuing to decline, agrochemicals remaining weak and pharmaceuticals coming under increasing generic competition.

Martin Evans at Hoare is forecasting halved pretax profits of about £100 million for the period and says there are few signs of recovery.

The ICI share price has been powering ahead since Britain dropped out of the exchange-rate mechanism, amid hopes that the company will benefit from a cheaper pound. But any benefits from the currency markets are likely to be wiped out by deteriorating trading conditions.

"The shares certainly look expensive at around the £12 level," he says. Prices and volume levels in bulk chemicals have been falling for some time and show no sign of recovery. "We took the view that the figures just did not add up, so we took a red pencil to them," added Mr Evans.

## Hoskins pubs go to clear debt

Hoskins Brewery, the Leicester brewer, is selling nine of its public houses to Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries for £2.45 million in order to eliminate all of the group's borrowings.

Hoskins also unveiled pre-tax profits ahead 46 per cent to £83,060 in the year to end-March on turnover down to £1.75 million (£2.08 million). Earnings climbed to 1.38p a share, against 1.23p. There is again no dividend.

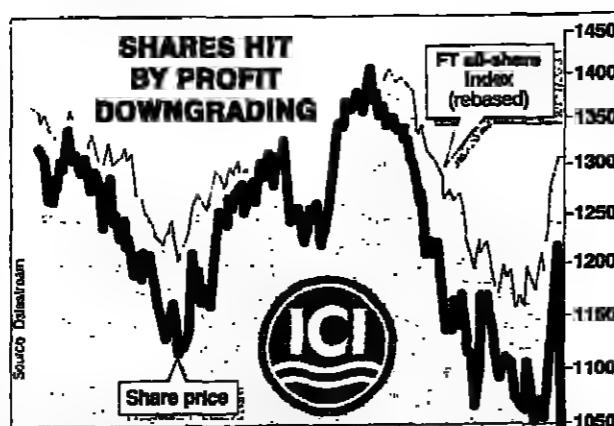
Maple Leaf Inns, formed in June, has added a further 50 pubs, the majority of them in the Midlands and Wales, to its initial 18 pubs in the North West, which it acquired from Bass last month.

## Drummond sinks

Drummond Group, the textiles and property group, gave warning to shareholders not to expect a profit or an interim dividend for the current financial year. Trading has deteriorated, largely due to problems arising from the integration of the Courtaulds Woollens business and other production and technical problems within the group's own woollen and worsted divisions.

## Metsec slides

Shares in Metsec slid 27p to 97p after the group, that serves the building, electronic, engineering and construction industries, passed its interim as losses deepened to £868,000 in the six months to end-June (£255,000 loss).



Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical sector remained under a cloud upset by persistent American selling because sterling's weakness makes British equities appear expensive. Morgan Stanley, the Ameri-

can company, make the bulk of their earnings outside this country.

But there were losses yesterday for Glaxo, 24p to 746p, and SmithKline Beecham A, 8p to 473p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, also downgraded profit estimates for Wellcome, leaving the price 41p lower at 909p.

The rest of the equity market suffered something of a reaction after recent gains. This was prompted by the news from ICI and further volatility on the currency markets, which appears to rule out the prospect of another early cut in interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 index closed near its low of the day at 41 down at 2,560, wiping out all of last week's gains. Turnover was 487 million shares, low compared with recent levels.

Kingfisher fell 20p to 515p on profit-taking after an analyst visit to its B&Q DIY division on Friday. Dealers

are becoming more anxious about half-year figures on Thursday from Forte, the hotel group, with the price falling 8p to 132p. Pre-tax profits are expected to be down from £42 million to £29 million with County NatWest the broker, reiterating its "sell" recommendation yesterday. Rival Warburg Securities is also said to be bearish.

can securities house, is bearish of the sector, but Andrew Porter says the selling is not justified and urges clients to use the current weakness as an opportunity to buy the shares. He points out that most drug

companies make the bulk of their earnings outside this country.

His comments helped depress the rest of the retail sector with falls recorded in Boots,

Grand Metropolitan appears to have few friends in the City these days after its recent profits warning indicating the final figure is likely to be about the same as last year. Brokers are continuing to downgrade profit estimates. The price fell 26p to 423p with BZW said to have cut its estimate for this year by £20 million to £930 million.

14p to 483p. Body Shop, 13p to 159p, Burton Group, 3p to 37p, Marks and Spencer, 32p to 324p. Next, 14p to 99p. Rainiers, 1p to 9p, Sears, 2p to 72p, WH Smith A, 10p to 44p and MFI, 3p to 116p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Reserve Bank paints gloomy picture of S African economy

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

MORE bad news for the South African economy was predicted at the weekend by the Reserve Bank. Its quarterly bulletin says the rate of decline in real gross domestic product for 1992 "could amount to about 1.5 per cent".

The bulletin adds: "It is, however, considerably more difficult to predict at what point in time a lower turning point of the business cycle will be reached."

An upturn in economic activity, the bank says, will depend on the drought ending in the coming rainy season, the extent of growth in the world's leading economies and on domestic political developments.

At least two of these factors there are reasonably encouraging news.

First the El Niño effect — large-scale oscillations in weather patterns — in the Pacific Ocean, on which this year's drought was blamed, has receded, and it has already been raining in Natal.

Second, there was good political news at last on Saturday as President FW de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, finally attended a summit meeting which is expected to lead to a resumption of constitutional talks, and the establishment of an interim government.

Until that happens the decline may well continue. The Reserve Bank reported yester-

day that the recession not only deepened in the last quarter but that it also became more widespread throughout the country.

In the first half of this year, it says, decreases were registered in value-added products by most economic sectors, including agriculture, non-gold-mining, manufacturing, construction and wholesale and retail trade.

Not only that but real gross domestic expenditure has shown a declining trend since the second quarter of 1988, that is from well before the present downturn in economic activity. In the second quarter of 1992 real gross domestic expenditure declined by about 1.5 per cent.

The bulletin adds: "The low level of current investment has serious implications for future economic growth."

The bank adds: "The low level of current investment has serious implications for future economic growth."



Talking heads: F.W. de Klerk, left, and Nelson Mandela

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Charter Cons	543p (+8p)	
ADT	400p (+12p)	
FALLS:		
RBC Group	434p (+20p)	
Powell Duffryn	347p (-11p)	
Rank Org	556p (-12p)	
SG Warburg	303p (-16p)	
Boots	483p (-14p)	
Bass	546p (-20p)	
Body Shop	158p (-19p)	
Courtaulds	498p (-19p)	
Amersham	465p (-17p)	
BOC	678p (-12p)	

Closing Prices Page 25

## RECENT ISSUES

	Shires	495	...
TR Technology Units	1700	...	
Throg 1000 Smr Co's Ws	13	...	
Yorkshire TW Warrants	12	-1	

RIGHTS ISSUES

	Ariva Petroleum N/P 171	5	...
Bibby J N/P (115)	1	-1	

## Bosses feel the pinch of recession

BY A CORRESPONDENT

BOSSES are having their perks and pay packets squeezed in the recession, according to a new survey. Executive salaries are increasing by an average 6.9 per cent compared with 10.9 per cent a year ago and middle managers' average salary rises are 4 per cent instead of last year's

10 per cent. Bonus payments fell from 16.5 per cent of basic salary to 13.4 per cent for the year ending August 31.

According to the survey, by Noble Lowndes, the pay and benefits consultant, the maximum leasing period on company cars has increased to 60 months from 48 months in 1991.

The upper mileage limit

rose to 120,000 from 80,000 and the proportion of top-of-the-range cars dropped from 14.4 per cent to 14 per cent.

On health care, there was a 1.7 per cent rise in the number of executives who contributed to their medical insurance premiums and a 1.5 per cent growth in discount schemes where they paid the whole premium themselves.

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## COMMENT

## Dan-Air needs a confidence trick

Like banking, the holiday business depends on confidence. Rumours of trouble, especially financial trouble, can create disproportionate damage and eventually become self-fulfilling. Holidaymakers shy away when the whispers begin to circulate and so do tour operators in case their customers pass on to the next glossy catalogue. So finding a solution to Dan-Air's difficulties was never likely to be easy. The first painstaking capital reconstruction stitched together by David James, chairman of Davies & Newman, Dan-Air's parent company, appeared to be fine. It seemed to provide the time and the finance for Dan-Air to trade out of its pressing difficulties. But however comforting the rows and columns of a cash flow forecast look when freshly printed, they are never more than educated guesses. In Dan-Air's case it was impossible to calculate the damage to confidence of its need to sweet talk bankers and others into going along with a re-financing. The impact appears to have been more severe than could have been expected.

The confidence problem is much more daunting for a company seeking help for a second time so soon after the last financial reconstruction. This may lead to a chicken and egg problem where bankers and investors hold back in fear that the holiday trade has lost confidence, and the holiday trade walks away in case the money men pull the plug.

One thing is essential to restore confidence, hard cash. Without it Dan-Air would fail the confidence test. Davies & Newman should therefore demand that rescue parties such as Richard Branson's Virgin group quickly put up some money to accompany their fine words of support. If it is not forthcoming, the doughty Mr James and colleagues should look elsewhere for backing. Their airline has highly prized takeoff and landing slots, a sizeable slice of the package tour market in Britain and is a fine base for expansion once the recession is over.

## Punt pressure

If sterling's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism was precipitated by an unfortunate and ill-timed rumour, then so was yesterday's panicky decision by the Bank of Ireland to raise the short-term facilities rate by three percentage points to 13.75 per cent. Yesterday's rumour concerns apparent Franco-German plans for a monetary "mini-Europe", presumably with Ireland on the outside. As was the case with the rumour which led up to sterling's suspension from the ERM two weeks ago, this one has been strongly denied. Yet it is only too plausible. The Irish punt has been one of the weakest ERM currencies after the French referendum and had to be propped up by extreme measures. These included the reintroduction of exchange controls last week, and yesterday's board interest rate rise.

The markets would have perhaps been even more ferocious but for prospects, however faint, that Ireland may after all become part of a monetary mini-Europe. Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, said yesterday that if there was a two-speed Europe, Ireland would be in the fast track, since the fundamentals of the Irish economy are "in many respects healthier than Germany's".

The markets will take a sceptical look at such claims. Three other ERM currencies remain under a cloud. At the bottom of the range are the two Iberian currencies, definitely "non-core". Most peculiar is the position of Denmark. The Danish finance minister said yesterday that, while a monetary mini-Europe would not be desirable, Denmark would want to take part in the fast-lane if it cannot be avoided. This puts the Danish "ney" to Maastricht into perspective. The mini-Europe may be rather larger than expected.

**Mark Newman**  
examines how BT's main competitor is planning to extend its business with a national advertising campaign

**S**ix years after opening its public telephone service, Mercury Communications is at last preparing for a major assault on BT's monopoly of the residential and small business market. A national advertising campaign with the message "Mercury gives you value for money" will reach television screens this autumn.

Rod Attwooll, Mercury's newly-appointed managing director, believes that within five to ten years, Mercury will be deriving a third of its revenues from residential customers, a third from small business and a third from large companies. It currently takes 80 per cent of its revenues from large companies, most of the rest from small businesses and only a tiny per cent from residential customers. Mercury has 250,000 residential customers compared with BT's total of 18 million residential lines.

Mr Attwooll says that a targeting of the residential market "is the next logical stage of growth for Mercury after having spent five to six years in the business area". The company had to concentrate on the business market initially, he says, to recover its capital investment. The Cable and Wireless subsidiary has so far invested close to £2 billion building its network.

He acknowledges that the thinking behind this is that "it wouldn't make sense to run the risk of keeping all our revenues in one basket". If Mercury could be sure that the top end of the business market continued to show improving growth and profit potential, it might be less concerned about the move down market.

But within the last year, BT has started to provide bulk discount schemes to large users to slow down migration to Mercury. It even has a special "winback" team whose job it is to advise BT account managers on how to lure back customers. The team has targeted 2,000 customers across the UK that it wants to win back.

BT is not the only threat. A number of new companies are planning to enter the UK telecoms market. Like Mercury in its formative years, they will be targeting large businesses. Companies which have already applied to the trade department for telecommunications licences include Sprint, the American long-distance operator; World Com, the Geneva group; as well as Yorkshire Electricity and Scottish Power.

The highly-profitable international telephone services business, meanwhile, is being hit by a downward trend in tariffs resulting from new competition and efforts by large users and international bodies, such as the European Commission, to eliminate the discrepancies between international tariffs and long-distance national tariffs.

Tim Hurst, a telecoms analyst at



Side by side: Mercury aims to move into BT's territory with small business and residential customers

Kleinwort Benson, thinks Mercury has also been influenced by "a need to be seen to get into the residential market". The whole idea of bringing in competition to BT in the early 1980s, he says, "was to give a better deal to the man on the street".

Mercury has been criticised by user groups for failing to give BT a run for its money in the residential telephone business. Mr Hurst says: "It is not in Mercury's interest to create an environment where the government wants to bring in more competition."

Even if Mercury had wanted to move into the residential market before now, its dependence on other operators to deliver its long-distance and international services to customers would have limited the number to whom it could offer a service.

Because Mercury has no intention of duplicating BT's network of cable, it has to carry the first leg of any call on BT lines until it reaches the nearest Mercury switch. International calls are handled over by Mercury to the operator in the relevant country. National calls are delivered right to the called party, if they are directly connected to Mercury. But in most instances, Mercury has to hand the call back to BT.

A better solution for Mercury is to link up with a different local tele-

phone company. The cable television companies are the only option at present, although in future, Mercury is optimistic that local operators will set up using radio signals.

As far as carrying calls over BT lines is concerned, this requires costly modifications to be made to BT exchanges so that they can pick up Mercury calls. BT and Mercury have been quibbling over how much Mercury should pay for these modifications for several years. For a long time, Mercury was only able to reach 50 per cent of the country's telephone subscribers. Even now, it can only reach 80 per cent of subscribers.

**T**he problem with using the cable television companies to deliver long-distance services is that Mercury has had to wait for them to build their local television and telephone networks.

The cable television companies have struggled to meet the deadlines for building their networks laid down by Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, and only within the last year have they begun to take on subscribers in large numbers. In the first six months of this year, cable companies installed nearly 27,000 lines, an increase of 125 per cent.

Mercury's residential advertising

campaign will drive home the message that it is cheaper than BT for long-distance calls. Which, the Consumers' Association's magazine, ran a survey of BT and Mercury services in August and found that at economy rates, Mercury cuts BT charges by between 28 per cent and 41 per cent on long-distance calls and by up to 20 per cent on international calls. It advised consumers to switch to Mercury if they spent more than £12 a quarter on calls outside their local areas during economy periods. Below this, Mercury is not worth considering because there is an £8.81 a year subscription charge and you also have to buy a special Mercury compatible phone. This is in addition to BT rental charges.

Soon, however, there will be no need to buy a special Mercury phone. Mercury's advertising campaign will coincide with the launch of a new service aimed at the residential market called Easy Access. Any phone will be able to access the Mercury network — even the old rotary dial telephones — although it will still cost £8.81 a year for the right to do so.

All you need to do is to make a call via Easy Access is dial 132 and proceed with the call. When you have a Mercury phone, you have to press a

special blue button before making a call.

There is one drawback, however, with the blue-button and 132 options. If the caller forgets to press the blue button or dial 132 first, the call will automatically be routed via BT. Mercury would like to introduce a service available for some time in America called equal access.

Mercury's advertising campaign will tell the public about the benefits it can offer without going into the specifics about whether you are better off buying the service from a cable television company, a Mercury phone type subscription or Easy Access. This, after all, could confuse the subscriber.

The company wants people to follow up their interest in its advertising by calling and finding out how they can take Mercury. The operator will then be able to tell the caller whether cable television is arriving soon, if it is possible to take an indirect connection and whether or not he or she needs to buy a new telephone. If Mercury is not available in the caller's particular area, Mercury will be able to say when it is due to arrive.

**P**artnerships with the cable television companies are Mercury's preferred option because it avoids having to use BT. But Mercury's relationships with the cable companies have not been without problems and in the longer term, they could become competitors rather than partners.

Some operators complain that Mercury has gone after business customers in their franchise areas. Others are unhappy about the margins that they receive from Mercury for telephone calls.

As soon as they have enough subscribers, many cable operators will buy their own switches and become independent operators rather than merely local agents for Mercury. In the longer term, cable television operators in the London area intend to link their networks together, which would mean bypassing Mercury altogether.

These concerns may be behind talks between Cable and Wireless and US West, a regional US telephone operator with stakes in 17 cable television franchises, with a view to selling a stake in Mercury and, possibly, Mercury taking a stake in US West's cable operations.

If US West had a stake in Mercury there would be little sense in it competing for the same customers, or building separate links to bypass Mercury. On the other hand, Mercury might run the risk of alienating other cable television operators.

Mr Attwooll denies, however, that there is any long-term danger of partnerships breaking down. "The task of building a local network is so huge," he says, "it would make more sense to do this as a partnership."

Mercury does realise, however, that some cable television companies might one day decide not to use its services. Mr Attwooll is keen, therefore, to develop a range of services and benefits that people associate with Mercury and which they will specifically request from their local telephone company.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Removing occupational pensions from the control of employers

From Sean Hand

schemes and achieve greater security of scheme assets.

Most interesting, however, is Mr Blake's recognition of the need for occupational schemes (including final salary schemes) to match the "portability" of personal pensions and the unified basis of valuations of accrued benefits.

The inability of many final salary schemes to provide this form of regular investment information is leading many employees to prefer money purchase arrangements, despite the fact that in the long term, they may be less beneficial.

It seems to me that Mr Blake's proposals would move most of these conflicts.

The characterisation of pensions (as distinct from contributions) as deferred pay, fails to recognise the fact that schemes are primarily intended to be savings vehicles of their members, comprising not only employer contributions, but also employee contributions and investment returns.

The fact that an employer chooses to contribute to a pension scheme is hardly justification for the retention of occupational schemes under employer control. Indeed, some employers may welcome releases from the responsibilities for administering the schemes which they have established.

Mr Blake's proposal that schemes be completely independent of employers is a logical extension of the separation of assets principle so central in trust law. The independent fund management group would reduce opportunities for employer theft from

From Mildred Bateman

remembered as a magnanimous father than as an old skinflint who exacted terms at a time of choice.

I would assure him that a new attitude will stand him in good stead.

He can forget Taurus and

all its works in a peace that passeth all understanding!

Yours faithfully,  
MILDRED BATEMAN,  
"Sawyer",  
44 Ridge Road,  
Kingswinford,  
West Midlands.

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Lamb Fillets served with Liver Pate and Black Truffle Sauce

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## Finding it hard to keep a straight face

From Nicholas Buser

ed some penalty, or enhanced her contract, wouldn't she find it difficult to conceal a smile in similar circumstances?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS BUSER,  
Delaney Park House,  
St Sampsons,  
Guernsey

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN SMALLBONE,  
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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Not 'resigning' but 'consulting'

THE Terry Smith fallout continues to rock UBS Phillips & Drew where it emerges that Chris Cawcutt, head of personnel, has now resigned. Cawcutt handled the initial disciplinary meeting when Smith, the former P&D head of research, first launched his controversial book, *Accounting for Growth*, in August. Smith was finally fired on September 7 and Cawcutt's resignation letter followed a few days later. Yesterday, a P&D representative denied that Cawcutt had been fired or forced to resign after criticism of the way P&D handled the Smith affair. According to the spokesman, Cawcutt, in his mid-40s, wants to "pursue a career in consultancy". He was definitely not fired or requested to step down. Cawcutt will continue to be employed by P&D until the end of the year, although from October it appears he will be seen less in house, his consultancy role taking almost immediate effect. "In fact, he has only agreed to stay on to the year end to handle the Terry Smith affair. He will be acting as a consultant on the matter," P&D said last night.

### Short break

THE old hands at the Stock Exchange know how to have a good joke but one misfired on Friday when Brian Winterflood of Winterflood Securities put up a spoof Airbreak holiday for auction at the Stock Exchange Veterans dinner. Everyone present knew that



Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071 828 5112.

DEBRA ISAAC

are not on the agenda, adding and Mike Oxlade, 47. Knight

CAROL LEONARD



## Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily current or a share of the total value you have stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Galn or Units
1	Hillside	Foods	100
2	Marks Spencer	Drapery, Strs	100
3	Royal	Insurance	100
4	Ivy Sims	Finance, Land	100
5	Raine Ind	Building, Rds	100
6	Stompegs Pops	Property	100
7	United	Mining	100
8	Swan	Drapery, Strs	100
9	Gr Porsline	Property	100
10	Rolls-Royce	Motors, Air	100
11	Savills	Property	100
12	Argyll	Foods	100
13	La Cheshire	Building, Rds	100
14	RHM	Foods	100
15	Scholl	Industrial	100
16	Smith & Neph	Industrial	100
17	Kwik Save	Foods	100
18	Br Land	Property	100
19	Jerome (S)	Tourism	100
20	Usd Newspapers	Newspaper, Pub	100
21	Br Petroleum	Oil, Gas	100
22	Amec	Building, Rds	100
23	GKE	Insurance	100
24	MTL Inst	Electrical	100
25	Brk Data Mgt	Business Serv	100
26	NSM	Building, Rds	100
27	Racial Elect	Electrical	100
28	Shawmark	Paper, Print	100
29	Abbey Ntl	Banks, Disc	100
30	MIM	Mining	100
31	Wheals	Mining	100
32	Br Vins	Industrial	100
33	Eland Gold	Mining	100
34	Br Airways	Transport	100
35	Bulbough	Industrial	100
36	Prudential	Insurance	100
37	Rathbone Brs	Finance, Land	100
38	Next	Drapery, Strs	100
39	Marweb	Electricity	100
40	Liberty	Drapery, Strs	100
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

### £1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Three readers shared the Portfolio Plus prize yesterday. Mr R Wallace, of Swindon, Mr H Farmilo, of Lee-on-Solent, and Mrs M Tidby, of Plymouth, each receive £666.66.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Div Yld P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP					
345	Abbey Ntl	100	103	4.0	104
346	Barclays	100	103	4.0	104
347	Barclays (H)	100	103	4.0	104
348	Br Airtel	100	103	4.0	104
349	Br Amex	100	103	4.0	104
350	Br Amex (H)	100	103	4.0	104
351	Br Amex Int	100	103	4.0	104
352	Br Amex Int (H)	100	103	4.0	104
353	Br Amex Int (H)	100	103	4.0	104
354	Br Amex Int (H)	100	103	4.0	104
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440	Br Amex Int (H)	100	103	4.0	

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A tax specialist with 2-4 years' post qualification experience and a 'top 10' background is sought by this leading City firm. Ref: 1621

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## Commerce/Industry

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## LONDON

## PROPERTY

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Extremely profitable City practice seeks further partner for its property department. Will take a lead role in practice development and will be expected to bring substantial ongoing caseload. Excellent opportunity for skilled property specialist to be groomed as the next head of department in highly regarded firm.

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Extremely busy corporate team at recently opened London office of leading national practice seeks further associate, 2-4 years qualified, for quality mix of company/commercial work, including M&A, joint ventures etc. Some Yellow and Blue book experience an advantage. Excellent interpersonal skills and positive desire to move out of conventional City practice essential.

## ZARAK

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Big chip medium-sized City practice seeks technically qualified associate, 2-3 years' experience, ideally for challenging non-insurance commercial caseload with strong international emphasis. Top City salary and benefits package.

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## LONDON

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To £45,000  
Burgeoning corporate group within top medium size/medium commercial practice seeks 1-3 year corporate lawyer with excellent transactional experience. Outstanding opportunity. First class salary and prospects. Ref: T6463

## BANKING

To £65,000  
Top 10 international City practice seeks experienced banking lawyer with between 2 and 6 years' relevant experience. Ideally from similar City background. Partnership prospects excellent within expanding department. Ref: T5492

## PROPERTY LITIGATION

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Major City firm, well-known for the strength of its client base in property/building, seeks litigator with 1-4 years' pg to advise on wide variety of high profile property disputes. Leading City salary. Ref: T6567

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To £44,000  
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## INSOLVENCY

To £51,000  
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## LONDON

## Company Commercial Partner

c.£130,000  
Thriving Central London practice seeks experienced Corporate Lawyer as departmental head designate. Strong track record, following and good all-round commercial experience in London a prerequisite. Outstanding opportunity. Ref: 365/MS.

## Construction

£Excellent  
Pre-eminent City practice seeks Construction Lawyers at all levels from newly qualified to partnership level with both contentious and non-contentious experience. Ref: 369/MS.

## Pensions

£120,000+  
Senior Pensions Lawyer (and possibly team) required for City practice committed to expanding this area of its practice. Exceptional opportunity for experienced practitioner(s). Ref: 365/MS.

## Private Client

£248,000  
City firm with small but highly successful private client department seeks 3-5 years' qualified Solicitor to service existing client base. Off-shore trust and more general private client experience a prerequisite. Ref: 367/MS.

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£45,000  
3-4 years' qualified non-contentious LP specialist required to carry out mixed caseload of patents, copyright, trademarks work often with EC element. Good academics necessary for this dynamic practice. Ref: 368/MS.

## Please contact

KAREN MULVYHILL or MICHAEL SILVER on (071) 404 4646 (day) or (071) 538 8391 (eve) or write to Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Fax: (071) 831 7968.

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Medium sized City firm seeks Solicitor with 2-5 years' City experience to handle broad spread of contentious and/or non-contentious insolvency work. Strong practice development skills essential. Good partnership prospects on offer with this dynamic practice. Ref: 364/KM.

Please contact

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For application form and further details contact:

Lorna Bell

National Consumer Council

2 Grosvenor Gardens

London SW1W 0DH

Tel: 071 730 3469

Closing date for completed application forms 12 noon

Wednesday 26 October. Interviews 11 and 13 November

1992.

National Consumer Council

2 Grosvenor Gardens

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Tel: 071 730 3469

Sally Hughes looks at the unfamiliar area of mass environmental litigation



A community's fears: anti-nuclear power demonstrators greet visitors at an open day at Sellafield. Leukaemia claims will be heard next month

## Fighting the polluters

Christopher Key, a partner in the law firm Sprouts, of Bodmin and Camelford, used to spend his summer luncheons on the Cornish beach and his evenings sailing. That was until 1989. Almost overnight his caseload of 200 active files increased to 350 as waves of new clients arrived with claims against the South West Water Authority.

The authority had negligently dumped 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate in Camelford's drinking water. Contrary to the authority's claim that the water was safe to drink, many local people suffered short-term and long-term symptoms, which they blame on the incident.

Mr Key laid up his boat early that year and buckled down to deal with one of the UK's first mass actions against polluters. This is a new area for lawyers.

The skills and logistics of getting such a big show on the road pose enormous practical problems and diverge from traditional practice, rooted in the individualisation of conflict. The subject matter and aspects of the law are unfamiliar territory for the courts — so much so that Charles Pugh, a barrister, and Martyn Day, a solicitor, have written *Toxic Torts*, a guide for professionals, support groups and anybody else interested in this litigation minefield.

The area is so new that actions begun in the late 1980s are just beginning to reach the courts. Next month the claims of childhood leukaemia sufferers from the area around Sellafield will be tried in the High Court. In November the Court of Appeal will consider the pre-trial issue of whether to strike out the Camelford residents' claim that exemplary damages be awarded on top of the usual compensation for personal injury. This means that at least three years after proceedings started the claims have not reached the courts.

Ten of Mr Key's clients are still pursuing court cases. Oth-



Playing safe: bottled water had to be used at Camelford

ers have settled. Other plaintiffs were represented by different solicitors. Mr Key's involvement was a kind of accident of geography, typical in pollution cases, which resulted, as *Toxic Torts* says, in his being "thrown in at the deep end". In fact, Mr Key is a personal injury specialist in his locality, and says that merely being in a country practice does not rule out the availability of expertise. "All around the country there are bright people who are able to take on such cases and fight them hard," he says. "No matter who handles it, it is always difficult dealing with a big defendant with tons

**The lawyer must take on an interventionist role in this area\***

of money." Luckily his firm had just installed a new computer system and soon evolved standard forms and precedents to lighten the load of sheer paperwork. Working hours increased drastically. Thus far, thus familiar. However, all the recent "disaster" cases have benefited from a certain amount of collective action by lawyers, generally in the form of a steering committee that decides tactics and pools information.

Mr Key found it difficult to work as part of a steering committee, being accustomed to having the sole care of one case at a time. "It is hard to

make decisions that are fair to everybody's clients," he says. But these practices are in their infancy.

In future the plaintiff's hand will also be strengthened by new legal aid contracts for multi-party actions, available since June, which aim to deal with claims in block, to award "generic" work to one firm able to submit the strongest tender, and to get money moving into the work fast. This is also an area, say Mr Pugh and Mr Day, where it is highly appropriate for the lawyer to take an interventionist role.

Solicitors and law centres, particularly those who are near the pollution hot spots, are developing a more proactive strategy.

The Camelford claims were "client-initiated" — clients knew they should go to a lawyer. However, in other cases those affected may not realise they can take action, often because the complex links between cause and effect are obscure.

Plaintiffs' lawyers must gather and deploy scientific knowledge, ahead of a potential action. This means not only keeping up with medical and scientific research, but also being prepared sometimes to go ahead without wholehearted scientific support when illness is "obviously" caused by pollution.

A court will decide for the plaintiff if it believes that the pollution was more likely than not to have caused the injury. A 51 per cent probability will weigh on the winning side.

The scientific community, however, will not admit a causative link to its canons without 95 per cent certainty. Nevertheless, the sheer quantity of science can be daunting. The pre-trial disclosure process in the Sellafield cases took two years and has resulted in what Mr Pugh and Mr Day estimate to be hun-

dreds of thousands of pages of scientific documentation alone.

These are high stakes cases. The cost of the Sellafield trial could run to £20 million. If liability is shown, the future cost of radiation poisoning to

Britain's nuclear industry will be immense. Mr Key has been deservedly reunited with his boat this summer. For lawyers all over the country, the coming fight for the environment could be their finest hour.

● *Toxic Torts*, written by Charles Pugh and Martyn Day, is available from Cameron May. The price is £46, including postage and packing.

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Inside: will sentences be shorter?

## Pricey London

LAWYERS in big City law firms are now the world's dearest. The 1993 *International Financial Law Review 1000*, the law firms directory, out next week, finds that a partner in a City firm costs an average of \$585 (about £344) an hour, compared with a top American rate of \$350. UK firms are followed closely by German lawyers, average \$510, and the Swiss \$445. During the past year, British firms have raised rates by 20 per cent, partly reflecting the pound-dollar rate, and the tendency to calculate rates on fewer billable hours than do Americans.

### Green court

LORD Justice Woolf, who takes his seat in the House of Lords this week, is leading the call for a "one-stop shop" European environmental court. At the International Bar Association in Cannes last week he said the "amorphous corpus" of legislation making up what is known as environmental law creates "problems of adjudication" which are quite distinct from those which our existing courts are best equipped to deal with". Enforcement was particularly

## INNS AND OUTS

important for supra-national environmental issues. Member states would not happily enforce directives if they were being flouted by other states. He proposed a model similar to that in New South Wales, where a land and environmental court covers environmental issues, with both criminal and civil jurisdiction. Its procedures are simple and speedy. "It is what can be described as a 'one-stop court,'" he said.

**On the attack**  
WHILE legal aid lawyers were digesting their proposed new pay rates published last week, Stephen Gilchrist, of Hart Forfang, was at the International Bar Association railing against government policy. He said the profession had no "confidence in the government's ability or integrity to deal properly with the legal aid scheme" or provide for "those vulnerable clients for whom the profession acts". His audience included people from countries where basic human rights are ignored and the poor are denied access to the law. They soon left when they found only lawyers. but not before a few kind locals offered to conduct a

whip-round for the legal profession, which was obviously suffering badly from the recession.

### Picture this

BACK in London, lawyers were out in force for the private view of a watercolours exhibition by the Alexander Brothers, Gregory and Matthew, at the Catto Gallery, sponsored by KPMG Management Consulting Europe. They were so shocked by the news of the economy and sterling's collapse to dig deep into their pockets, but amid talk of rapid descent, the former international diver, Frank Duffy, of Cameron Markey Hewitt, entertained his audience with a replay of great dives from the Barcelona Olympics. His description of how to take a running jump was the only one not directed at Norman Lamont.

### Swift justice

LORD Williams QC and John Rowe QC, chairman and vice-chairman of the Bar respectively, who were in Argentina recently to advise the country on adopting an English-type system, were surprised to learn that the justice minister, Dr Leon Arslanian, resigned immediately after seeing them. He was protesting about judges being appointed on criteria other than merit.

SCRIVENOR

a mixture of sun, sea, law and cocktails. The sumptuous opening buffet on the beach, with food from all the regions of France and fireworks, attracted a crowd looking out for movie stars. They soon left when they found only lawyers, but not before a few kind locals offered to conduct a

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## An Act of faith in the wisdom of the courts

JUDGES, magistrates, criminal practitioners, probation officers and others will have to alter some of their practices under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which comes into force on Thursday. The Act imposes a more rigorous framework on sentencing, introduces "unit fines" to all courts, abolishes the former remission and parole systems, places 17-year-olds in new youth courts, and makes other changes to children's evidence.

The Act contains important principles from which attention can be distracted by other, obscurely worded provisions. Several sections restrict courts, but the main structure leaves them with wide discretion, especially in applying "the seriousness of the offence" concept. It aims to foster a partnership between judges and the courts, which would decide the general principles, and the courts, which would develop the practical details. Whether the partnership will work may depend on whether judges and magistrates are persuaded. There are three potential sticking points:

● The Act can be taken to outlaw "exemplary sentences" disproportionate to the seriousness of the offence. But might the courts regard an offence as more serious because of its prevalence, such as an outbreak of joyriding? If so, would this not undermine the Act by reintroducing exemplary sentences?

● Second, the Act says an offence is not more serious just because the offender has previous convictions, although courts may mitigate for a good record. The aim is to prevent heavy sentences on people who commit several minor offences. To what extent will section 29 (2), allowing courts to consider whether "the circumstances of other offences" aggravate this offence, be used to circumvent the basic principle?

● Third, where courts are sentencing a defendant for more than two offences, the decision on whether the case is serious enough for a community sentence or custody must be taken by considering only two of the offences. The aim is to stop several minor offences being aggravated so that the offender is dealt with as a major

criminal. Will section 29 (2) be adapted to dilute this principle, too?

Lord Taylor, the new Lord Chief Justice, must give guidance swiftly if inconsistent interpretations are not to take root.

The criminal appeals office must be urged to direct suitable cases to the court at the earliest opportunity, so that he and his colleagues can lay down interpretations of section 29 (2) and other controversial provisions. One of Lord Lane's achievements as Lord Chief Justice was to develop the technique of the sentencing guideline judgment. Lord Taylor should now take the difficult but necessary step of applying this technique to common crimes such as theft. The Magistrates' Association has issued informal guidance for magistrates' courts, but for the crown court there is virtually nothing on these everyday offences. One effect of the abolition of remission and discretionary parole for prisoners serving less than four years is that many sentences of this length will now mean longer inside. The Carlisle Committee, which recommended the changes, said the courts must cut sentences to compensate. The Act, sadly, says nothing about this. The Lord Chief Justice must announce that this should be done, and say how it should be achieved.

The first year will be a test of power and duty. The government has made the Act's policies clear: long sentences for serious offenders and for the "dangerous", more community sentences and less prison for the less serious offenders, particularly those who commit several minor offences. Will the Court of Appeal be tempted to endorse the policies that accord with previous practices and to "read down" other sections? Will the lower courts follow suit, or will they strive to retain as many of their former practices as possible?

ANDREW ASHWORTH

● The author is professor of law at King's College London. His book, *Sentencing and Criminal Justice*, was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in August.



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# Dangers lurk for directors

Members of a company board are not automatically exempt from blame and personal responsibility for their actions.

Philip Goldenberg explains the pitfalls

**K**evin Maxwell's £406 million bankruptcy may have sent a shiver down the spines of some of Britain's board directors. To what extent can company directors find themselves personally liable for the debts of the companies they manage?

The sums in the Maxwell case are exceptional but all company directors can be victims of the same legal pitfalls.

The first lesson for any student of company law is that a company is a distinct legal person and accordingly that those who own or manage it are not personally liable for its debts. This privilege of trading with limited liability was, from the 1870s onwards, a significant engine of economic growth, matched by a concomitant obligation of public disclosure.

The veil of incorporation, however, may be lifted and those involved in running a company's affairs, in particular its directors, may be exposed to personal liability, in a number of ways.

• **Guarantees:** Banks and other large creditors are not devoid of security. Accordingly, where a small company is managed by its owners, personal guarantees may often be sought. This is also true in the case of a small subsidiary of a large group of companies, where the parent company may similarly be asked for guarantees.

• **Without authority:** A director who enters into a commitment on a company's behalf without proper authority may well incur personal liability. Even signing a company cheque not carrying the company's correct name will render the director personally liable. Although generally a third party dealing with a company can assume that a transaction authorised in what seems to be a correct manner will bind the company, there is an exception where the third party is connected with the director concerned.

In addition, even if a company is

bound *vis-à-vis* a third party by the unauthorised act of a director, that director may be personally liable to the company.

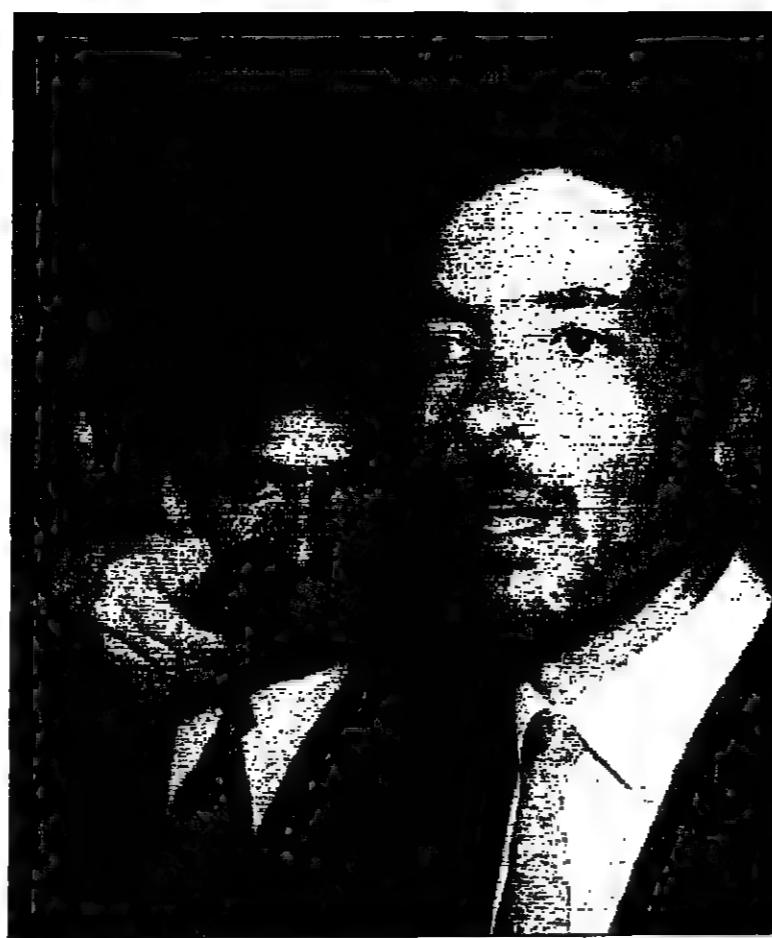
• **Breach of duty:** A director will also be personally liable if he is in breach of his duties as a director — because there is a conflict of interests, for example. In essence, a director must not make a "secret profit", and must disclose any such conflict of interests to his fellow directors.

• **Directors' dealings:** The shareholders' consent is required for the purchase or sale of an asset between a company and one of its directors if the value of the transaction is at least £10,000, or, if less, 10 per cent of the company's net assets, with a minimum of £2,000. More onerous requirements apply to a director of a company whose shares are listed or quoted on the London Stock Exchange. There are also strict limitations on the extent to which companies can make loans or quasi-loans, as defined by statute, to a director. This is quite apart from the criminal and regulatory prohibitions on dealing on a stock exchange where a director has the benefit of inside information.

• **Corporate Transactions:** If a company raises capital on a stock exchange, or seeks equity investment from a financing company, directors may bear additional personal responsibility in two ways.

First, directors as a whole will have increased responsibilities. In the case of a prospectus or listing particulars, giving information about a company, statute law imposes criminal or civil liabilities if information is inaccurate.

This is extended by the Financial Services Act covering a range of other documents that are deemed to constitute



Liable: Kevin Maxwell after bankruptcy order was made against him

activities make it appropriate, commission an environmental audit and thereafter adopt appropriate policies and designate a director to be responsible for them. This applies equally to safety matters.

• **Insolvency:** The key area where the personal liability of directors has come to the fore is that of insolvency. If a company carries on trading when it has no reasonable prospect of paying its debts as and when they fall due, then directors who authorise this conduct or negligently fail to prevent it may end up being made personally liable without limit for all or part of the company's debts.

Because of these potential liabilities, companies invariably have a detailed verification process for a prospectus or listing particulars, under which all factual statements are confirmed as true and all expressions of opinion are confirmed to be honestly and reasonably held. No doubt those involved in the Robert Maxwell affair are even now looking carefully at the flotation document for Mirror Group Newspapers. Information on the appointment of independent trustees of the pension fund would be of special interest.

• **Keep it green:** There are also statutory obligations on a company where, to achieve greater compliance, the law says penalties for non-compliance may be personally exacted from individual directors.

This is particularly true on environmental matters, and it is a foolish board of directors that does not in circumstances where the company's

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Not all 'in-house lawyers' earnings have kept to 3.25%. Those in their 30s have fared best, the largest rise being for Senior Legal Advisers in the 30-34 age group - from £25,068 to £35,320. There are a few instances, however, of earnings actually falling. Senior Legal Advisers aged 45 to 60 and a drop from £34,752 to £31,421, and Legal Advisers aged 40-44 dropped from £25,063 to £24,742.

The highest paid in-house lawyers are the Senior Legal Advisers aged 40-44. Their average remuneration is £39,379. (The top 10% of them earn £41,250; the bottom 10% earn £36,115.)

Perhaps the most worrying trend to emerge from our survey is the decline of manufacturing industry in our 'pay-league'. Oil and banking top the league year after year, but manufacturing has fallen from 5th to 8th position. This must reflect the severe trauma that this sector of industry is going through. The very heart of our economy is in chronic decline, while the government celebrates one brilliant victory after another in its crusade against inflation.

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## Antiguan Flyer to relish this going

**BARRY** Hills has struck form in recent weeks after a virus-affected season and the Lambourn trainer can land a double at Newcastle today with Dazzling Fire (2.30) and Antiguan Flyer (3.30).

With heavy going forecast, it should prove best to follow those who have acquitted themselves successfully in such conditions, and Antiguan Flyer is just such a horse.

Both his wins this season have come when there has been some give in the ground — at Bath in April when beating White Wedding by four lengths and in an amateurs' race at Ayr's Western meeting when holding off Five To Seven by a short head.

Drummer Hicks should also be able to cope with the ground in the Newcastle Members Subscription Handicap.

The heavy rainfall at Nottingham may well have been

### MANDARIN

Good Hand, who also ran at Ayr, finishing fifth to another Hills-trained winner in Bandolino. That race should have given Hills a good idea of Antiguan Flyer's chances and he is napped to follow up.

Dazzling Fire, who beat Flash Of Straw in a claimer at Bath two weeks ago, looks to have every chance of following up in the Newlands' Claiming Stakes. The runner-up did not let the form down when chasing home Texan Tycoon in a handicap at Brighton last week.

Drummer Hicks should also be able to cope with the ground in the Newcastle Members Subscription Handicap.

The heavy rainfall at Notting-

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The heavy rainfall at Notting-

ham may well have been

the key to Mahong's success, his only other win on good

soil at York, and he may

have need the race after a

seven-week rest when fading

in the final furlong behind Chatham Island last time out at Doncaster.

With a career record of two wins from 42 starts, B Grade is unlikely to figure prominently on short list for Racehorse of the Year. But her fast-finishing second behind We're All Game at Ayr suggests she may be the one for the Longbenton Handicap.

At Brighton, Mahong can

defy a 5lb penalty for his

victory at Nottingham last

week to the Saltdean

Handicap.

Meanwhile Simon Sherwood can land a double with Rubins Boy in the Great Western Oils Ltd Novices' Chase and Lake Mission in the Great Western Oils Ltd Handicap Chase.

Finally Exeter should prove a good meeting for the Sherwood brothers. Oliver looks to have a fine chance with Bardesane in the first division of the Great Western Oils Ltd Novices' Hurdle. Although Bardesane was not successful in his first season over timber he showed some useful form and looks capable of winning here.

Meanwhile Simon Sherwood can land a double with Rubins Boy in the Great Western Oils Ltd Novices' Chase and Lake Mission in the Great Western Oils Ltd Handicap Chase.

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## FOOTBALL

# Wright stays behind as Liverpool go to Cyprus

By LOUISE TAYLOR and IAN ROSS

MARK Wright may not have boarded Liverpool's flight to Cyprus yesterday but the club captain still managed to be the centre of attention as Graeme Souness's side prepared for the second leg of their European Cup Winners' Cup tie with Apollon Limassol tonight.

The England centre half was withdrawn from an already depleted Liverpool party — who are defending a 6-1 lead — at the eleventh hour.

The official reason proffered by club officials was a "dead leg" sustained during the 3-2 defeat by Wimbledon on Saturday. But perhaps significantly, Wright's withdrawal came 24 hours after newspaper reports suggested he would shortly be sold after failing to manhandle a defence which has conceded 11 goals in its last three fixtures. Yet, according to a source close to Wright, no transfer is imminent and the player is genuinely injured.

If Wright's future at Anfield remains a mystery, Souness's selection options are painfully clear cut. With ten first-teamers injured and Pelechuk, the Danish central defender, ineligible under Uefa rules on the fielding of foreigners, Souness's choice is so limited that it revolves around his usual reserve team.

The Liverpool manager, who has been given a vote of confidence by his directors, will fly to Cyprus separately from his players for personal reasons.

Cyprus police are not expecting trouble although

plane-loads of Juventus supporters will be on the island as well as Liverpool's. The Italian side plays Anorthosis Famagusta in Larnaca. "The supporters will be in different towns," a police spokesman pointed out.

The police were placed on a security alert only 24 hours after all scheduled local games in Cyprus were cancelled following violence at the end of a match between Omonia and Apollon on Saturday. The referee spent 48 hours in hospital after Omonia supporters had beaten him up following his award of an 89th-minute penalty to Apollon. Seven police were also hurt, one seriously, and four Omonia supporters were arrested.

Cardiff City travel to Austria where they face Admira Wacker with whom they drew 1-1 at Ninian Park two weeks ago. Cardiff will be bolstered by the inclusion of Robbie James, who was suspended for the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup tie. The Welsh international has impressed at right back since his arrival from Bradford City six weeks ago but is expected to be in his more familiar midfield position tonight.

Eddie May, the Cardiff coach, said that his third division side would score at least one goal. He said: "In Carl Dale and Chris Pike we have the ideal forwards to exploit Wacker's defensive vulnerability. They are dangerous going forward but their defence is not solid. We will score."

said. Even more shameful were the security thugs who muscled members of the international media with incorrectly coloured passes from the finish area. A great opportunity to improve Chinese chances of staging the Olympic Games in 2000 had been wasted in a most dramatic display of ineptitude.

The fact that the organisers, MAPS, had successfully run the event at all was a tribute to René Metge. His dream to stage the first West-East rally was shattered nine days before the start last year, with the attempted military coup in the then Soviet Union.

The Frenchman's determination was rewarded earlier

this month, when 153 competitors left Paris on what was billed as the last great motor sport adventure.

Less than half survived the tortuous journey through vast changes of topography and climate. The terrain changed quickly from arable land to desert, while one section through the Gobi desert dished up a sandstorm followed by torrential rain.

The professional teams stole the limelight, more for controversy off the stages than the performance on them. When Pierre Lartigue drove the victorious Camel Citroën ZX Rallye-Raid onto the finish ramp, there was no applause from the opposition.

"He won because of the best navigation in Russia," Thierry Vairdot, Mitsubishi's chief engineer, said. "Why? Because they [Citroën] drive the route beforehand." Somehow, Mitsubishi believe that Citroën was given the route before the rally started and went out to explore the roads. Citroën discovered the organisers' road book was littered with inaccuracies and made their own.

Mitsubishi, whose cars came in second, third and fourth, have a number of theories how they received it, but cannot protest: MAPS is owned by the Mitsubishi Corporation, and any appeal

would reflect badly on them. One person who strongly rejects such accusations was the only British competitor, Fred Gallagher. Gallagher, who was navigating for Björn Waldegaard, said the organisers' road book did not help. "The road book is a disgrace," Gallagher, who lives in Edinburgh, said.

Citroën also deny such claims, preferring to reflect on the historical significance of how they have relived the *Croisière Jaune*. In 1931, a group of explorers left Beirut on the Citroën Central Asian Expedition, and after meeting up with a second team which had left Peking returned in unison to China, following the old Silk Road. Much of the latter part of this year's rally followed in its footsteps, and like the *Croisière Jaune*, one wonders if its modern day ancestor will see the light of day again.

One suspects it will, but only if radical changes are introduced to ensure the true spirit of adventure is not overshadowed by controversy again.

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE Buffalo Bills put on a devastating display on Sunday to become the first National Football League club to win four games in a 4-17 rout of the New England Patriots.

Jim Kelly passed for three touchdowns as the Bills scored 35 points after the interval. Thurman Thomas scored his seventh touchdown of the year on a one-yard run and finished with 120 yards on 18 carries. Buffalo have outscored their opponents 153-45.

Vinny Testaverde's 14-yard touchdown pass to Ron Hall with 49 seconds to play gave the Tampa Bay Buccaneers a 27-23 away win against the Detroit Lions. The Lions led 16-10 at the start of the fourth quarter. Testaverde, who had not previously thrown an interception, had three against Detroit, but still hit on 17 of 30 passes for 248 yards.

Jim Harbaugh completed two scoring tosses and Neal Anderson ran for two touchdowns as the Chicago Bears stopped a two-game losing streak in a 41-31 decision over the Atlanta Falcons. The Bears held on after leading 31-7 at half-time.

Rich Gannon, of the Minnesota Vikings, played with a chipped bone in his throwing hand and finished with a career-best 318 yards and four touchdown passes in a 42-7 rout of the Cincinnati Bengals. Cris Carter caught two scoring passes, Terry Allen scored three times and Todd Scott had three of Minnesota's four interceptions.

David Treadwell, of the Denver Broncos, kicked four field goals to provide all the points in a 12-0 win over the Cleveland Browns. The Browns sacked John Elway five times.

**FIXTURES:** West, five: Sunday: Chicago at Minnesota; Green Bay at Atlanta; Indianapolis at Tampa Bay; Kansas City at Denver; LA Rams at San Francisco; Dallas at San Diego; Denver at New England; LA Raiders at Denver; NY Giants or LA Raiders, Seattle at San Diego; Washington at Phoenix; New England at NY Jets; Sunday: LA at Atlanta.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** (1) Atlanta, Bills 41; New England Patriots 37; Chicago Bears 41; Atlanta Falcons 31; Denver Broncos 41; Cleveland Browns 0; Houston Oilers 27; San Diego Chargers 4; New England 40; Cincinnati Bengals 7; Tampa Bay Buccaneers 27; Detroit Lions 23; Chicago Bears 41; Atlanta Falcons 31; Minnesota Vikings 27; Cleveland Browns 0; Tampa Bay Buccaneers 27; Detroit Lions 23; Houston Oilers 27; San Diego Chargers 4; Buffalo Bills 16; New York Jets 16; Miami Dolphins 18; New York Giants 16; San Francisco 49ers 18; New Orleans Saints 10.

**American Conference**

**Eastern division**

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buffalo Bills	4	0	0	153	45
Minnesota Vikings	3	1	0	72	20
Indians (Colts)	2	2	0	72	24
New England Patriots	3	1	0	13	65
New York Jets	0	4	0	51	96

**Central division**

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Chicago Bears	1	1	0	74	59
Pittsburgh Steelers	1	2	0	82	57
Cincinnati Bengals	1	3	0	76	90
Cleveland Browns	1	3	0	80	89

**Western division**

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Denver Broncos	3	0	0	90	56
Kansas City Chiefs	2	0	0	76	27
Seattle Seahawks	1	3	0	37	72
Los Angeles Rams	0	3	0	80	80
San Diego Chargers	0	3	0	28	85

**National Conference**

**Eastern division**

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Dallas Cowboys	3	0	0	88	88
Philadelphia Eagles	2	1	0	47	57
New York Giants	1	2	0	48	78
Phoenix Cardinals	0	3	0	41	85

**Central division**

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Dallas Cowboys	3	0	0	108	108
Chicago Bears	2	1	0	101	92
Kansas City Chiefs	2	1	0	98	110
Seattle Seahawks	1	3	0	37	72
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San Diego Chargers	0	3			





MODERN TIMES p5  
Should donor insemination be secret from the child?



# LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1992

FOCUS p7,8,9

Freshers  
week into a  
brave new  
world



KEITH HAMSHIRE

## Brains behind the bricks

Anthony Hunt is the engineer behind many a great vision

**B**ehind every great British architect there is a great British engineer. Anthony Hunt's battle honours will soon rival those of Peter Rice, the engineer who was awarded this year's royal gold medal by the RIBA.

Mr Hunt has worked with all the big names: Sir Norman Foster at the Sainsbury centre in Norwich; Sir Richard Rogers at the Iffos microchip centre in Wales; Michael Hopkins at the Schiumberger factory outside Cambridge; Eldred Evans and David Shalev on the Truro courthouse and most recently with Gordon Benson and Alan Forsyth on their winning entry for the National Museum of Scotland competition.

Right now he is in the public eye with the bright blue steel tube structure of the Channel terminus nearing completion at Waterloo, where he has been working with Nicholas Grimshaw.

Mr Hunt is very much at the centre of the new minimalism. He describes this as "using the minimum number of parts to do the maximum number of jobs — in a structural sense".

Stainless steel is one of his favourite materials and on his



Man of steel:  
Anthony Hunt

office table are a series of stainless steel castings for Waterloo Station. "They are not polished up; that's why they look like grey iron. People think of stainless steel as being shiny like cutlery, but you can achieve many degrees of finish from matt to silver."

Glass says Mr Hunt is still the magic material. In Paris he is working on what could be the last of Mitterrand's grand projects, CCIP, an international conference centre, next to the Eiffel tower. "We got the job with a French architect two years ago. It's three great glass boxes, each 100 metres long, 50 wide and 28 high."

He set up practice on his own, when he was just 30, though he has now teamed up with one of Britain's biggest architectural practices, YRM, who are responsible for most of Gatwick airport.

It is right he says to talk of a renaissance of British engineering, bringing structural design to a pitch of adventurousness, hardly seen since the age of Brunel, Stephenson and Telford. At the moment Britain is ahead of both Japan and the United States, he believes. All he regrets is that lack of vision in Britain led ministers to reject the bow-shaped bridge proposed by the Spaniard Santiago Calatrava, which would have spanned the new east Thames crossing in one giant leap.

MARCUS BINNEY

## Carry On into a new world

A fresh outlook on a well-loved routine brings some familiar characters back to the silver screen.

Barry Turner on a renovated British institution

**L**et's get one thing straight. *Carry On Admiral* is not one of the Carry On series made at Pinewood under the Peter Rogers and Gerald Thomas banner. Their first was *Carry On Sergeant* made in 1958 with Bob Monkhouse in the lead. *Carry On Admiral* was a year earlier and featured Wilfrid Hyde White who went on to play the Colonel in *Carry On Nurse* (the second Rogers-Thomas effort) and ended up with a daffodil in his bottom.

It is important to know these details. Anytime now *Carry On* will be a specialist subject on *Mastermind*. Why not? It is a British institution to rank with the Queen Mother, one of the few success stories of British cinema and the longest succession of films to be made by recognisably the same small group of people. There are aficionados galore queuing up to sit under the spotlight.

So what do you say when Magnus Magnusson asks, as he surely must, how many *Carry Ons* have been made by Rogers and Thomas? The answer is 29, including the latest, *Carry On Columbus* which will be at your local cinema from Friday. *Carry On Columbus* is a bit of an oddball. It is fourteen years since its predecessor, *Carry On Emanuelle*, bombed at the box office. The received wisdom then was that *Carry On* had had its day. The jokes, most of which had a history going back to Marie Lloyd, were beginning to show their age.

So too were the actors. One by one, stalwarts of the *Carry On* repertory fell off the perch. Sid James, the cement mixer voice, was the first to go. He died in 1976 with 19 *Carry Ons* to his credit. Hattie Jacques (14 appearances) went in 1980 followed by the two camp comedians, Kenneth Williams and Charles Hawtrey who scored 25 and 23 respectively. *Carry On* survived for nostalgia buffs in countless television repeats and in the video shops, an ever renewable source of income for the Rogers-Thomas partnership and irritation for their actors who had been paid a modest flat fee for their services.

Meanwhile, the new age of alternative comedy was upon us. Its exponents were rough, tough and pleased to shock. If *Carry On* was nudge and wink, alternative comedy was a punch in the gut. The old guard was led by Gerald Thomas who at 72 was signed up to direct *Carry On Columbus* in the same mechanical style as he had directed all the other *Carry Ons*.

Enter John Goldstone. This 49-year-old producer does not come across as the sort of man to throw away £2 million, which is what it has cost to make *Carry On Columbus*. He knows what works in comedy, having put together the money for the *Monty Python* films,

"He was the obvious choice. No one knows *Carry On* as well as he. Anyway, there are few enough comedy directors in this country. In television, they're used to half an hour format. They can't sustain a whole movie," Goldstone says.

**T**he woman at the post office looked hard at the form I had completed and passed over the counter. Her pen hovered. "What is . . . that?" she said. I peed.

"What do you think it is?" She shook her head and pursed her lips. "Could be anything," she said. She made a guess. "H?"

"No." "It's not a W," she said. "Is it?" "No." "I give up." "It's an M. Obviously."

"It's really," she said, as if I'd told her that it was an Icelandic name. She looked again. "You don't half write funny, don't you?"

I had an advantage over her. I knew that it had to be an M because it was the first letter of the name of the village where I live and I wouldn't have forgotten that in the five minutes since I completed the form. Otherwise I might have been as fogged as she was. My handwriting is so bad that I often have to guess at its meaning when I try to read what I have written.

What, for instance, is the meaning of this note in my diary under

## Take it as read that I wrote it

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon on the joining up of letters

Tuesday, May 12 which appears to say "Titles in Rhapsody"? A prayer for the day? A song in the tax collector's heart? It had me stumped for a full 30 seconds until I made it out to be "Titles in Chap" — a reminder to check some references in the second chapter of a book I was completing. I play my executors if they have to make sense of my estate from my hand-written records they'll be in Chancery until their wills fall for scrutiny.

Most of the letters I write begin "You do know, don't you, that I'm trying to do you a favour by typing this letter rather than the discursive writing by hand?" My own son begs me not to send him hand-written letters or cards because the effort of deciphering them eats into his Seg-a-time. He tells me that I ought to join him in his school class. Last time we had lunch

together, he made me copy the letters of the alphabet onto a paper napkin and, studying the results, said I wasn't ready to join them up.

The evidence does not exist to support this claim but I am fairly confident that my handwriting was as good as his when I was nine. It must have been about that time when I, perverse little git, decided that I would slope it backwards just because everybody else was doing what the teacher told them to do and sloping theirs forwards. Up to the age of 16, there was nothing wrong with the shape of my words except that they appeared to be backing towards their meanings. The gathered



misery. In the 1980s I had a secretary who had to spend so much time decoding the enigma of my notes that she got better at it than I was myself.

"What does that say?" I would ask.

"I've been wondering about that," she would murmur, "and I'm pretty sure I've cracked it."

The trouble with our education system is not that they don't teach

you how to write (they do) but they don't teach you how to make notes. The senior teachers at my school acted as if we had all spent the summer at secretarial school before taking O levels and entering the sixth form and suddenly, magically, we could be expected to take notes on their lessons at the speed of their thoughts.

They didn't even teach you how to hold a pen so that it could travel over a thousand inches of paper at 50 words a second. I adapted my grip so that it became a hunched clinch. A school-friend, watching me at work, said "You hold your pen like a butcher's apprentice with a hook in his hand".

My grip wasn't just ugly and inefficient; it also left a physical mark. Thirty years of pushing pens left me with a permanent black blister under the skin of my index finger. It's not much of an industrial

injury compared with a broken back or bronchitis but maybe I am the only person in the world who might claim to have contracted a repetitive strain injury from a pen?

**T**hat little wren is a mark of a vanished age. For most of my working day, I've got about as much use for a pen as an account's clerk has for an abacus. The word processor came to save my finger from withering and my words from the extinction of indecipherability. I use the machine for everything, even love letters.

About 30 years ago, Katharine Whitehorn said that anybody who would use a typewriter to compose a poem must be short of a hexameter in the muse and soul department. What would she think of somebody who found, as I do, that the word processor is perfect for poems: you can change any word or line as many times as you want, saving all the versions if you choose and never have to scratch your head over an old line. The Post Office isn't in the poetry market, however. They want unequivocal Ms and no messing. They might have a chance if I could get their forms on disc.

**R**oyal National Theatre  
OLIVIER

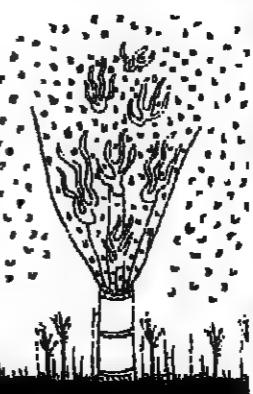


A new theatre piece by leading poet/playwright Tony Harrison which combines invigorating verse with music, movement and magic, to explore the creative and destructive powers of science.

## SQUARE ROUNDS

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Director Tony Harrison,  
Designer Jocelyn Herbert,  
Lighting Mick Hughes,  
Music Dominic Muldowney,  
Choreographer Lawrence Evans,  
Magic Consultant Ali Bongo,  
Costume Transformations  
Arturo Brachetti



**REVIEW TONIGHT**  
SAT 11.15  
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are not on the agenda, adding

bell, 48, Greg Morgan, 47, and Mike Oxlade, 47. Knight

CAROL LEONARD

Mr. Cromer roundly declared Parliament and government shared responsibility

Yours faithfully,  
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30 Temple Fortune Lane,  
NW11.

Send cheques or postal orders payable to Alton Ltd, Times Crossword Account to Alton Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Enquiries, telephone 081 852 4575 (open weekdays). Please allow 14 days for delivery.

**ESPAÑA** In the first of two concerts to commemorate the Columbus anniversary, the Dufay Ensemble and the Spanish Ensemble for an intriguing mixture of Spanish music ancient and modern (the latter represented by works by Falla and Roberto Gerhard). Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 5ET (0171-928 8800), 7.45pm.

**IL TROVATORE** Scottish Opera's new production of Verdi's opera continues the company's policy of assembling impressive international casts. Azucena (Ludmilla Nam), Manrico (Paolo Kuduchianni) and the Count di Luna (Madame Radice) are from the Bolshoi. Leonora is the first of the three. The Soprano of the World, the Soprano of the Stage: Renée Fleming, the Soprano of the Screen. Richard Armstrong conducts. Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), 7.15pm.

**THE FORCE OF DESTINY** Well balanced English National Opera production of Verdi's compelling opera under the baton of the astute Mark Elder. Josephine Barstow takes command of the most demanding of all Verdi's dramatic soprano roles, that of Leonora. Renée Fleming and the best as Don Alvaro and John Corigliano, Anne-Marie Owens and Jonathan Summers make a fine supporting cast. Richard Hudson's 19th-century comedy *La Finta Giardiniera* a brightly-coloured comic set.

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 0171-336 3161, 7.15pm, 19pm. "H" PATTERN: Drawing on traditional forms of dance, music, comedy and story-telling, it delves into the African-Caribbean cultural assimilation back to its African roots through slavery, liberation and migration. "H" Pattern has won many awards and has been widely praised with groups such as Adodo Pan African Ensemble. This is its first

#### TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

followed by Lily Savage's show, *Savage* — The Return. Her French Impressionist painting, *Paintings, Pictures, South Bank*, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm and 9.15pm.

**10,000 MANABAS**: This one-off gig in an intimate venue showcases the band's new album, *Our Time in Eden*. Natalie Merchant's soaring vocals combine effectively with the country rhythm section. The Tabernacle, North End Crescent, London W14 (071-371 4317), 8pm.

**THE STRANGERS**: The enduring puritan group goes on a ten-day tour, supported by the up-and-coming Bradford quartet Loud Lou who promote an interest yet breeding brand of rock. Colston Hall, Bristol (0272-223822), tonight, 7pm. Town & Country Club, 100 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-436 0200), tomorrow, 7pm. Cheek Hall, Wolverhampton (092 312030), Thurs, 7pm. Academy, Manchester (061-275 4815), Sat, 7.30pm.

**THE DANLING FAMILY — A DUET FOR THREE**: Promising-sounding Canadian play by Linda Griffiths about a family who have lost their home in the National Trust's care, and for the gardens and garden buildings that surround them. This show brings together some 120 drawings made for Griffiths' first book, *Drawings*. Included are works from the hand of such luminaries as Sir John Vanbrugh, "Capability" Brown, Humphrey Repton and Sir John Lumsden. 100 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-930 6422), Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, until Oct 15.

**PERFECT PICK OF THE FRINGE**: Nine award-winning shows can be seen over the next two weeks at the Curzon, Soho.

Timothy Tompkins' double bill features the ferociously funny *Steaming Bees* and *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband*.

#### THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**■ HOUSE full, returns only**

**■ Seats some available**

**■ Seats all prices**

(071-928 2252), Today, 2.15pm and 7.30pm, 100mins.

**■ THE INVISIBLE MAN**: A cracking revival of last year's production, prior to a West End run. Amazing stage tricks and special effects. Lyric Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, 89 Haymarket, London SW1 (071-930 6401), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 11.30pm, 120mins.

**■ MEDIEVAL DRAMA**: Diana Rigg gives a cool, distancing interpretation in Europe's newest drama.

Cambridge Arts Theatre, NE1 (071-299 4404), Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat. Sat, 8.30pm, 120mins.

**■ A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**: Philip Howard's triumphant RSC production. John Caird as a callous aristocrat in *Willie's social misadventures* (071-436 0991).

**■ LOVE: MURMURS**: **■** Directed by Tim Firth. A crackling comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carpentry alter ego. A reveal to be cherished. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-834 5500), Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, mat. Wed, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, 120mins.

**■ SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION**: Stockard Channing as the rich New Yorker transferred by a black artist in John Guare's fine play on human inter-dependence.

Cambridge Arts Theatre, SW1 (071-867 1045), Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 8.30pm, 120mins.

**■ SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME**: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, James McDonald and Frank Middlemass in this new play by Alan Ayckbourn.

Vauxhall, The Strand, WC2 (071-838 9987), Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat, 8.30pm, 120mins.

**■ VALENTINE'S DAY**: **■** Stew's You Never Can Tell with music added and

nearby enjoyable quality subtracted. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-434 5600), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Wed, 8pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

**■ A WOMAN KILLED WITH**

**■** DOMINIC MICHAEL MALONEY and SADIE ROEVE in an Elizabethan domestic tragedy packed with telling details.

The Old Vic, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 6891), Tonight, 7.15pm, 100mins.

**■ MURDER, LITTLE MURDER**: As part of the European Arts Festival, Strasbourg's leading children's theatre company Théâtre Jeune Public will tour Britain with a new interpretation of *Kapiti's* 2nd birthday. The wolf's visit is using 80 costumes, musical instruments (each representing a jungle animal), a *Mac* Ernest-style set and a recorder narrative by Judy Finch. Haymarket, London SW1 (071-730 5797), Today-Fri, 10.30am, 1.30pm, Sat, 10.30am, 3pm, 7.30pm.

**■ THE DANLING FAMILY — A DUET**

**■** Promising-sounding Canadian play by Linda Griffiths about a family who have lost their home in the National Trust's care, and for the gardens and garden buildings that surround them. This show brings together some 120 drawings made for Griffiths' first book, *Drawings*.

100 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-930 6422), Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, until Oct 15.

**■ COLOURS AND MURDER**: Sometimes witty but hollow study of two florists' murders who think they're the victims. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1743), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 8pm, 100mins.

**■ FROM A JACK TO A KING**: Whiny and stylized version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and sex. The Old Vic, New Bond Street, London WC2 (071-836 6711), Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, 120mins.

**■ GAMBLERS**: Cleo Menthous, Mar, Rydene, Phil Daniels in superbly staged production of *Godot's* "Still, Still, Still". The Old Vic, New Bond Street, London WC2 (071-836 6711), Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, 120mins.

**■ GRAND HOTEL**: Musical farce sugar Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Diamond, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-834 5500), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 8.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

**■ MY FATHER IS COMING**: A play by a German playwright to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1743), Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat, Sat, 8pm, 100mins.

**■ SECRET FRIENDS**: Alan Alda in fascinating voice dominates a generally low-key production of *Secret Friends*.

Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W1 (071-748 3341), Mon-Sat, 8pm, 120mins.

**■ AN AMERICAN IN LONDON**: Stephen Daldry's atmospheric, powerful resurrection of Priestley's drama of social responsibility. National (Lyceum), South Bank, SE1

100, 7.15pm.

**■ SECRET RELEASES**

ANTIQUE WOMAN (15): Julie Walters falls for her manuscript lodger. Precious romantic comedy. With Adrienne Postier, director, Christopher Monger. Old Vic, Kensington (081-966 6668) West End (071-928 1574).

MY FATHER IS COMING (16): A play by a German playwright to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1743), Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat, Sat, 8pm, 100mins.

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Bob Geldof: shaven and unshaven in the same show

TELEVISION REVIEW: Peter Barnard is dismayed by the first morning of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*

## No appetite for a breakfast with Bob

**B**reakfast television has been through so many incarnations that it must soon attract a franchise bid from the Dalai Lama. En route to this inevitable development we now have Saint Bob, the beloved Geldof. He is the star turn of *The Big Breakfast*, Channel 4's latest attempt to turn us into a nation of jugglers defined as people who can watch the box while balancing a fried egg on a fork.

The short history of breakfast television has demonstrated that the very name is a contradiction in terms. At this time of day we are attempting, most of us, to get up and

get out. Thus is radio the obvious, logical, backdrop — and thus does *The Big Breakfast* attempt to sell itself as "radio TV". The term comes from the press release, a gaudy mix of pretentious nonsense and ludicrous imagery. "This is a show that coddles your milk and sends your fried eggs running for their shells."

That is at least fair preparation for the programme itself: a gaudy mix of pretentious nonsense and ludicrous imagery. It is tabloid television minus the substance we have come to associate with, for example, the *Daily Sport*. Channel 4 is rightly commit-

ted to the pursuance of minority audiences, but how large a minority do the terminally moronic constitute?

The show is set not in a studio but in three east London lock-keeper's cottages which have been knocked into one. The result is the pre-existing three breakfast shows, knocked into one. The colours are primary — yellow, red, blue — on the presumed argument that at 7am we need cheering up. I am reminded of an early-evening remark by a friend in a bar: "If this is happy hour, why am I so miserable?"

Naturally the presenters are horribly cheerful: "I'm

Chris", "And I'm Gaby". They banter back and forth with the crew. They throw things at the crew, the crew throws things at them. The news comes every 20 minutes no more than 10 seconds per story, nothing (yesterday) foreign, unless you count the retirement of Imran Khan.

There are cartoons. There is a competition: "Who's washing line is it anyway?" Five items are hung on the line and people call in to guess to whom they might belong. Yesterday they belonged to Kylie Minogue.

There is a "family of the week", the Molyneuxes from

Liverpool, who have moved into the lock-keeper's premises to talk to us about each other. And about world events: the David Mellor resignation was "a shame". Er... possibly.

Shortly after *Sam comes* Geldof. He describes what he has seen so far as "rubbish". And I am not here to disagree with him. We cut to the first of Geldof's much-hyped interviews, to be shown in segments of a couple of minutes down the line. Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, talks to Geldof about putting his arm around the Queen — he says that he didn't. And about being a

republican — he says he is. Keating, in fact, says nothing new to Geldof, who has stayed for his live appearance on the programme but not for his recorded interview with Keating. Old Bob, so perverse, don'tcha love him? Shortly afterwards, Bob's wife Paula Yates arrives to interview Joanna Lumley, for a reason now forgot. At least things are looking up.

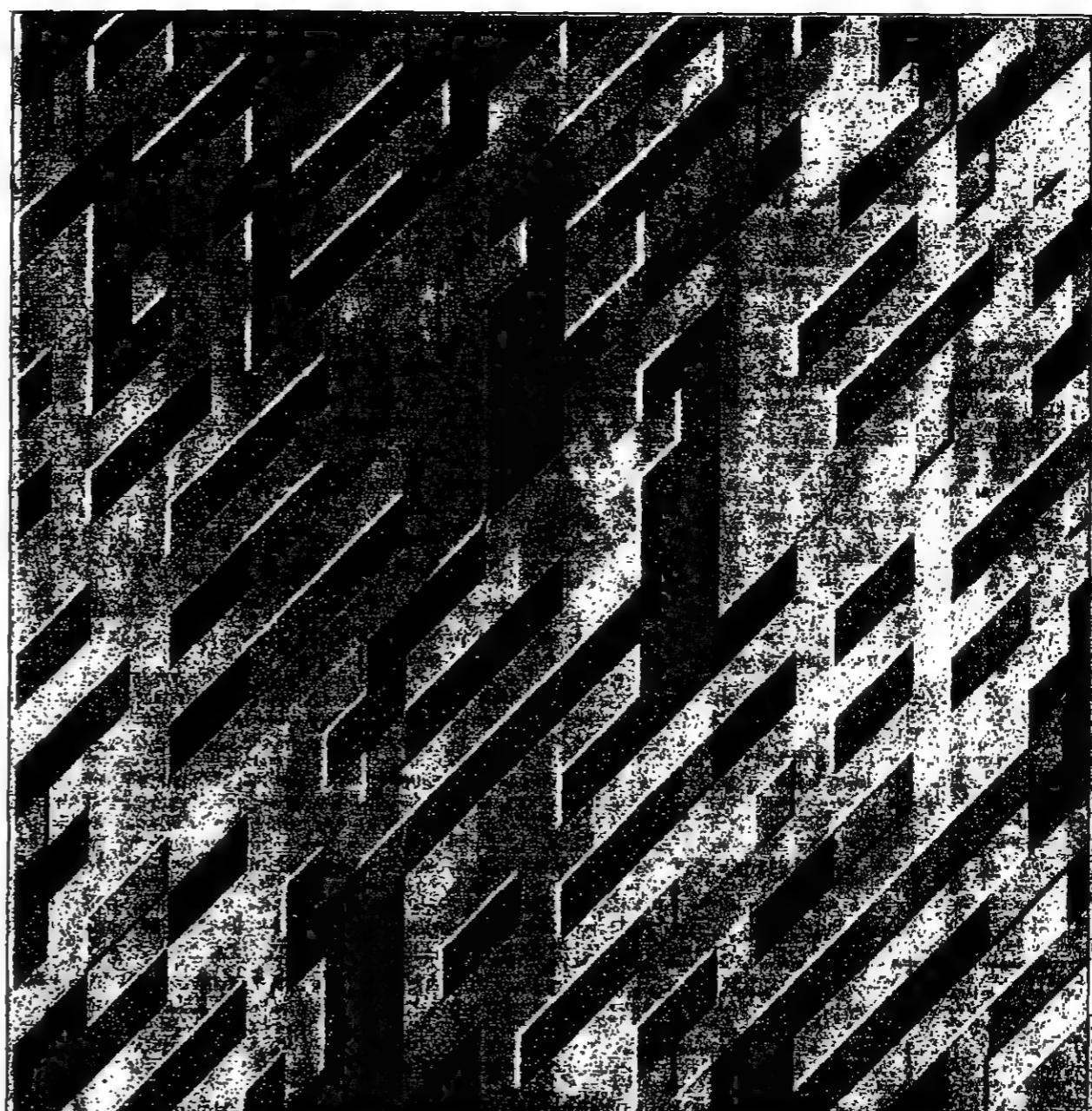
But looks are not enough, not on "radio TV". In the days since the mission to explain TV-am's *Famous Five*, breakfast television has been on a slippery slope. I had thought Roland Rat marked the bottom. Not quite.

### ARTS BRIEF

#### Save and prosper

LIVERPOOL is to get a new gallery designed to turn conservation into a visitors' attraction. Robin Square, the inner cities minister, announced yesterday that £2.2 million of the gallery's £7 million cost would come from the government's city challenge programme. The money will fund a scheme to turn the listed Midland Railway Goods Depot, built in 1874 and empty for the last 25 years, into a multi-discipline conservation centre with a public gallery. The rest of the cost will come from the national heritage department and private fund-raising, and the centre should open in 1995. It will have facilities for conserving paintings, paper, furniture, historic models, sculpture, scientific instruments and textiles.

**Fresh start**  
GLYNDEBOURNE, soon to have a new opera house, has not forgotten about new opera. Siegfried Matthus's pithily entitled *Comet Christoph Rilke's Song of Love and Death* will be given its British premiere by Glyndebourne Touring Opera in 1993. And a new opera by Sir Harrison Birtwistle — bearing the scarcely less intriguing title *The Second Mrs Kong* — will be toured in 1994 and brought into the 1995 festival. There is new blood, too, on the roster of festival directors: the National Theatre director, Deborah Warner, makes her Glyndebourne debut with a new production of *Don Giovanni* in 1994, the first season in the new theatre.



Into Place, 1987: abstraction allows Riley to juggle with several possible references within the same picture

## Colour lights up the life of Riley

**R**ichard Cork on an artist who combines rigour with warmth

often point to a starting-point in observation of nature.

References to *Cherry Autumn* or *Burnished Sky* suggest that pattern-making in a sealed-off studio is not her concern. Rather she tries to find an equivalent for the visual sensations which excite her in the world beyond the window. Without recording in a literal way, she does invite us to see her stripes as the pared-down essence of her response. Thus, on one level, the stripes of a painting such as *Summer's Field* might refer to a close-up scrutiny of thickly-packed wheat or grass. But they could equally well derive from a more distant prospect — an aerial view, perhaps.

Abstraction allows Riley to juggle with several references in one picture — as well as continuing to assert the primacy of a flat, painted surface with a pictorial reality of its own. But as we move through this masterful exhibition, so she reveals a greater willingness to let nature enrich the stern scaffolding of her previous work. By 1986, when *Genie Edge* was painted, the

● Bridget Riley at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3144), until Dec 6

austere verticals had begun to sprout diagonal offshoots. They grow out of the upright stripes like leaves springing from plant stalks, and the colours are softer and warmer than in the early 1980s.

Within a couple of years, though, some of the former vibrancy had returned. In *New Day*, one of the strongest paintings of the period, the dense crowding has been loosened to admit generous areas of white. And substantial clumps of black exert a refreshing influence in a picture where the emphasis on vertical poles of colour is matched, now, by an increased reliance on diagonal shafts.

Riley's compositions remain as tightly ordered as ever, and they are also reminiscent of sumptuous patchwork quilts.

But the idea of standing in a forest glade will not go away.

Despite her strict adherence to systematic abstract schemes, these new Rileys may one day be seen as exemplary additions to the British landscape tradition at its most headlong.

● Bridget Riley at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3144), until Dec 6

## Progress under pressure

**H**aving launched a successful new solo career, Queen's guitarist Brian May talks to David Sinclair about trying to come to terms with the death of Freddie Mercury



Brian May: evidently something of a perfectionist

and learn how to do it."

May, who is evidently something of a perfectionist himself, has spent five years working (on and off) on the album. They have been five of the most traumatic years of his life. The death of his father, his highly publicised relationship with Anita Dobson and the break-up of his marriage, were all conducted against a background of nagging fears for the future of both Mercury and Queen. The group's last tour ended at Knebworth on August 9, 1986, but according to May, Mercury did not divulge that he was suffering from AIDS until just a few

months before his death.

"There was a period leading up to that when we were fairly convinced that we knew what was wrong, but we respected the fact that he didn't want to talk to us about it. He didn't tell us anything in the early days. He just suddenly, categorically said: 'I don't want to tour.' I think he was dealing with it privately for years.

"He never asked for sympathy from anyone else. He was a very strong person and always liked to be in control of his own destiny. He knew that if he'd announced it his life would become a circus and he

would be prevented from

going about his business, which was making music. He wanted it to be business as usual until the end. There was no drama, no tears in his eyes. He was incredibly self-contained."

Even so, once Mercury's condition was fully understood, the pressures on the group became immense. "We didn't feel we could speak about it to anyone," May says.

"It was particularly hard lying barefaced to our friends. And, of course, we had to stand by and watch this incredibly talented, strong man, in the prime of his life, gradually wasting away.

There was a terrible feeling of helplessness."

This is all very well as a base for Macbeth's decline but the moments of uncertainty and cur choice are inconsistently weighed. Douglas Henshall's reluctance to rise boldly to the occasion, as his wife demands, is clearly expressed yet it follows a scene where his own dawning thoughts on murder lack the appropriate alarm. His back-and-forth interpretation relates less to the character's Hamlet-like wavering between indecision and impulse than to his style of dealing with these changes. While he brings a fine frenzy

to his "Sleep no more", staring blearily at his hangman's hands, his "Tomorrow" speech goes jogging past, and "Then comes my fit again", on learning of Fleance's escape, suggests that it troubles him little more than the chef's regret that the haggis will be a little late.

Gregory Smith's conveniently transportable set contains no vertical scenery — the production here, as in Tokyo, is designed in the round — and consists of worn slabs crossed with deep conduits such as might convey blood away in an abortion.

The witches crouch around

a grating that is sometimes lifted to reveal a dead body

floating in reddish water. This offers the prospect of grisly

visions to come, but nothing

### THEATRE: Macbeth at the Watermill, Newbury

#### Fair is not foul enough

**D**ue to leave next month on visits to the Tokyo Globe and Buenos Aires, Euan Smith's production is stronger in its details than in guiding these towards a unified whole. What we are given is a roughie general, his yonking boots and purple beret identifying him as commanding the Scottish Paratroopers, who finds himself out of his depth among the pin-striped courtiers of Civille Street. Like the ex-paratroopers in the current television series, he chooses to survive by turning criminal.

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ever emerges from this subtitute cauldron. Nothing goes into it either, not one toe of

Smith's production requires all the horrid apparitions to be imagined by us yet, once again, Henshall's quick recall of them gives them insufficient terror. The grating serves as the banquet table, with cushions laid around it by the witches, but this seems a mere necessity forced by the confines of the stage than any real identity.

The reversal of power between Macbeth and his lady is effectively shown when he mesmerises her into stepping towards him, and Caroline Lonoq's distracted wiping of her hands rings true.

There is telling use of play with hands throughout the production and yet possibilities are continually ignored: we have no sense that Malcolm is only pretending to be vicious in order to test Macduff. At the end he says so and that's that. The production relies too much on this take it or leave it approach.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Deborah Warner: debut at Glyndebourne in 1994

#### Last chance ...

THE THERE is a thesis to be written on the number of groups influenced by the Velvet Underground. The latest is Luna, a trio of refugees from other bands: Dean Wareham (ex-Galaxie 500) on vocals and guitar, Justin Harwood (ex-Chills) on bass and Stanley Demeski (ex-Feebles) on drums. Luna's UK tour ends tomorrow at the Tivoli, Buckley (0244 550792).

### RADIO REVIEW

#### Difficult family outings

**T**he Monday Play on Radio 4, *A Bit of Berlin*, was about a conventional English couple who go to Berlin to see their son; after he has been attacked in the street, and discover that he is a homosexual. The theme may have been obvious but the treatment of it was excellent.

The parents, Vic (James Grot) and Barbara (Rowena Cooper), are past masters at concealing things from themselves under wreaths of optimism and ready-to-wear euphemisms. Mark's boyfriend, Dieter (Walter Van Dyk), is beautifully balanced, understands the feelings of all parties, gently teaches the parents about homosexuality and even manages to persuade Mark that he has been cowardly in not telling his parents years ago.

"I've been through a very hard time in the last few years and had therapy and all kinds of stuff which I don't particularly want to talk about, but you do realise that we're all little children inside."

Born in Hampton, Middlesex, May had the sort of stable, well-educated upbringing that is something of a liability in rock 'n' roll. "There was an underlying belief in fairy tales. I was not taught how tough life is." His father, a gifted electronics engineer, taught him to build his own guitar when he was in his teens, and May uses that same, home-made instrument to this day. Although he is keen to develop his prowess as a singer, he still regards the guitar as "the basic means of doing what I do. It's the only thing I can fully express myself with."

"I never asked for sympathy from anyone else. He was a very strong person and always liked to be in control of his own destiny. He knew that if he'd announced it his life would become a circus and he

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going about his business, which was making music. He wanted it to be business as usual until the end. There was no drama, no tears in his eyes. He was incredibly self-contained."

Even so, once Mercury's condition was fully understood, the pressures on the group became immense. "We didn't feel we could speak about it to anyone," May says.

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There was a terrible feeling of helplessness."

Another story about people having to adjust to the unexpected is being read on Radio 4 this week and next. In this case it is the Queen and her family, who have to learn to live on a council estate when the Republican party unexpectedly wins the election.

The author is Sue Townsend, and this is an abridged version of her new novel *The Queen and I*. It is read by Miriam Margolyes, who also mimics the voices in an accurate and kindly way, except for Mark that he has been cowardly in not telling his parents years ago.

The weakest element was the revelation that Vic himself,

had his first triumph on radio.

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# Mysteries cut to the bones

George Hill on how the new DNA tests have re-opened several ancient cases and could solve long-standing mysteries

**M**ore dry bones are bound to start rising up and telling stories, now that the Romans have pointed the way. Whether or not it proves possible to identify the murdered Tsar and his family from the burned and splintered fragments of bone brought from the burial pit at Ekaterinburg to the forensic laboratory at Aldermaston, the discovery has fastened public attention as nothing else could have done on the possibilities of DNA analysis for resolving mysteries.

From ancient Egypt to the Wild West, hitherto unanswerable questions have now become answerable, in principle at least, through the technique of mitochondrial DNA analysis. It can unmask imposters, confirm the pretensions of disbelieved claimants and can reunite long-separated families.

The technique has already had important successes. In Argentina, children who were left orphans by the murder squads of the former dictatorship, and given away for adoption while still babies, have been identified and reunited with their families by comparison of their DNA with that of their grandparents.

Earlier this year, German and Israeli authorities accepted that Dr Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz doctor responsible for the deaths of 400,000 Jews, was truly dead, after studying the findings of tests made by Professor Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University, and other scientists on the bones of a man who had drowned in Brazil in 1979. The DNA in the bones was compared with that in samples contributed by Mengele's son.

The same techniques could also provide answers to far older mysteries. The fate of the vanished prince in the Tower of London is one. The story that they were murdered by Richard III has never been universally accepted.

Some writers still believe that one or both of the princes survived. For several years after 1484, Perkin Warbeck claimed to be the younger prince, and thus the rightful King of England. He was captured, retrac-

ed his claim and hanged. Nearly 200 years later, in Charles II's reign, two small skeletons were discovered under a staircase in the Tower. They were buried in Westminster Abbey and still lie in an urn in Henry VII's chapel.

Analysis of the bones in the urn might go some way towards showing whether or not the lives of the princes really ended in the Tower. The patterns of DNA — deoxyribonucleic acid, the main constituent of chromosomes — are handed down so consistently from mother to daughter (not from mother to son) that 20 or so generations later there should still be a clear correspondence between the DNA of the princes and that of a living relative in the female line, if one could be found.

Rising open tombs could solve other ancient puzzles. The murders of Edward II and Richard II in 1327 and 1400 also gave rise to rumours. Bodies alleged to be theirs lie in Gloucester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, but there is contemporary evidence that Edward escaped and wandered *Incognito* through many countries before dying in Lombardy.

Rumours persisted long after Richard's death that his chaplain, Richard Maudelyn, who resembled him closely, had been killed in mistake for him. The King of Scotland, no doubt hoping to foment trouble in England, paid a pension for years to a supposed Richard, and had him buried in 1419 in Black Friar's church, Stirling. Richard's tomb at Westminster was opened in the last century, and his skull was still intact then. Which of the two Richards has the more regal genes?

It is not likely that disturbing any of these bones would add much to serious knowledge. It would be tempting to seek out another skeleton — that of the notorious Tichborne claimant, who fascinated London in the 1860s by claiming to be the lost heir of a baronetcy and a large Hampshire estate. After a series of court cases, he was declared to be the son of a Wapping butcher. He was jailed for perjury and died in poverty.

For the remoter past, DNA analysis has great potential in tracing the movement of prehistoric populations, but will rarely be useful in confirming individual relationships, because the physical evidence will be too scanty.

One exception could be ancient Egypt, where light might perhaps be shed on the mysteries surrounding Akhenaten, the heretic monotheist pharaoh of the 14th century BC. Mummies and locks of hair have been found which probably belonged to several of his close relatives — one of them his son-in-law, Tutankhamun. But no mummy has been convincingly identified as that of Akhenaten, whose reign ended in obscurity.

A mystery of the Wild West may soon yield to DNA testing — what really became of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid?

One of the most memorable moments in westerns is the ending of the Robert Redford and Paul Newman film about them: the two cornered outlaws, having fled north America with Pinkerton detectives on their trail, are trapped and wounded, somewhere in Bolivia.

Surrounded by overwhelming forces, they choose not to surrender, but defiantly burst out of their hiding place to be caught in a frozen frame an instant before they are mown down by the fire of hundreds of waiting soldiers.

Even before the film was made, and still more vehemently afterwards, historians disputed the conclusion. With every passing year, a new set of theories, some more, some less credible, has emerged about the fate of America's most famous outlaws. By the last estimate, Butch and Sundance have been reported dead at least 24 times on three continents. Now, more than 80 years after their disappearance, a pile of bones unearthed from a Bolivian graveyard and the most sophisticated techniques available to modern forensic science may be about to show that Hollywood was more or less right after all.

In 1985, Anne Meadows, a chequered writer, and her husband, Dan Buck, set about unravelling the mystery. After a series of court cases, he was declared to be the son of a Wapping butcher. He was jailed for perjury and died in poverty.

across some diplomatic correspondence referring to a shoot-out between a couple of gringos and the local police in San Vicente, a tiny mining town 4,000 metres up the Andes, rumoured to be the death-place of Butch and Sundance, whose real names were Robert Leroy Parker and Harry Longbaugh.

When Ms Meadows and Mr Buck got to San Vicente they found a 54-year-old man named Friolán Riso who said his father had witnessed the shoot-out as a boy. Senor Riso led them to a spot in the San Vicente graveyard where his father had indicated the two men were buried.

**L**ate last year, Ms Buck and Mr Meadows returned to San Vicente's graveyard, this time with a scientific team headed by Clive Snow, a forensic anthropologist famed in America for his part in identifying the remains of Mengele as well as the bodies of torture victims in Argentina. With permission from the local authorities, they began digging at the spot in the graveyard indicated by Senor Riso. Nine feet down they found the body of one large man, and a little way away the skull of another.

Back in his forensic laboratory at the University of Oklahoma, Dr Snow set to work on the remains. He ascertained that both were caucasians, aged about 40. One had entry and exit holes in the skull from a bullet passing through both temples, while the forehead of the other was smashed, a hole which could have been caused by another bullet fired between the eyes.

The wounds are consistent with the theory that the outlaws, outgunned and possibly wounded, had entered into a death pact, with Butch shooting Sundance before turning his gun on himself. That coincides with an account given in Bolivian army records.

Computerised reconstructions of the shape of the outlaws' heads, taken from photographs, have been compared with the skulls and are said by the scientists to match up "pretty well", but as Dan Buck frankly admits, there is nothing that definitively proves that the bones taken from San Vicente

graveyard are those of the two outlaws.

"But there is nothing to suggest that it isn't them either," he says.

"and that's the most we could hope for until the DNA tests come through." Dr Snow and his team are carrying out generic fingerprinting, comparing DNA from the remains with that of other members of the outlaws' families. Given the large number of Parker siblings, finding Butch's relatives was relatively easy, according to Ms Buck, but tracing family for the Sundance Kid required a scramble to the outer limits of the Longbaugh family tree.

Even if the DNA tests prove

positive, since neither outlaw had

children, the only way to achieve a

certain DNA fingerprint match

would be to dig up their parents,

whose graves are unknown. A final

verdict on the DNA test is not

expected for several months. Even

then the scientists will deal only in

probabilities. The outlaws' final

whereabouts may never be known to

certainty. They would probably

prefer it to be that way.

Additional reporting by Ben Macintyre.



Skull's secrets: tests may identify the Tsar



Where are they now? The mystery of Butch Cassidy (seated, right) and the Sundance Kid (seated, left), here in their Hole in the Wall days, could at last be solved

Joe Joseph's canapés have been more imaginative, his cutlery co-ordinated, since he went on the Lucie Clayton Entertaining course

**W**e all know there are certain rules the considerate hostess bears in mind if she wants her guests to break bread with their fellow diners without wanting also to break their heads. Meticulous dining decorum is just common sense.

For instance: while crusted port and Havana cigars are acceptable items for circulation around the dinner table, photographs of your children are not, unless they happen to be criminals with high rewards for recapture hanging over their heads.

But for some women, the

## Etiquette on a plate

ADRIAN BROOKS



Knack of the napkin: the course gives advice on how to dress a table

and yellow plates? Only this if we must have hostessing hints, hostesses should maybe learn a few that will enrich the lives of those dinner guests whose priorities focus on more pressing culinary matters than how to knot napkins. Let's not forget the following:

● Unless entertaining Olympic athletes in training, it is not necessary to provide a meal which satisfies the recommended minimum daily requirements for all known vitamins and minerals. Calories taste much better.

● A hostess who demonstrates flower-arranging advises making your arrangement "one-sixth the size of the table and you can't go wrong". A sommelier tells the ladies "if there's only one line of bubbles going up the middle of the glass, then it's a good champagne". If it bubbles like Coca-Cola, then it's cheap champagne. "So now we can tell how miserly our host is."

● Ginger ale in a champagne glass looks like champagne.

You would have thought guests could tell the difference, unless you have been so imaginative with the canapés that you lacquered them with cannabis.

Does all this help soothe furrowed middle-brows? A lady from Croydon says it

does. "I entertain quite a lot. The presentation of the table means a lot. You want to give dinner parties where people want to come back." They mention it to friends and you widen your circle of friends.

Was there really a chapter on friendly napkin-folding and

china colour-coordination in Dale Carnegie's book *How To Win Friends And Influence People*? I missed it.

● The quality of the food should be of paramount importance to the thoughtful hostess. If fillet steak costs £10 per lb and pig's knuckles just 20p per lb, then rest assured that the free market is trying to tell you something.

● Diets make suitable dinner conversation only if one is seeking to comment indirectly on the meagre size of the portions served. If you are battling with your figure, keep it to yourself. Chew all your food, just don't swallow.

● Your hostess's decision to start with Thai satay sticks is not sufficient excuse to recount your youthful exploits in Bangkok.

● The knowledge that most healthy adults can subsist without anything but water for a week or more is knowledge best ignored by the hostess who wishes to receive thank-you letters.

● Bon appetit!

### Has feminism failed?

Return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London (October 6, 7.30pm). The speakers include Neil Lyndon, Yvonne Roberts and Beatrix Campbell.

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says, "is that if you don't know what to do with your finger bowl then it doesn't matter. But some people do worry."

So is it cruel to perpetuate the belief that there are rigid rules that an elegant hostess ignores? Only is she wants to risk social ridicule? Or is it even crueler to deny anxious women a sort of "Emily-Post-best-behaviour" truss that will give them social support when they next do a dinner for eight, and give them the confidence of knowing that even if the bother of spooning the supermarket salmon plait into your own serving bowl and hoping nobody asks for the recipe, which would force you to explain why you always add a pinch of anti-oxidant to all your dishes, just in case?

Lucie Clayton herself is torn about the subject of etiquette. Leslie Kark, who runs the school, has reached the smart conclusion that it's more important to be civil and considerate than to be able to recite Debrer's "My own view," he

main course tastes like dog food, it has at least been carved correctly?

Nine middle-brow women who saw advertisements in magazines such as *Good Housekeeping* turned up at Lucie Clayton's Kensington headquarters for the first *Entertaining* course. The day began with advice on planning a dinner party. Let's not leave the mystery out of the course, but here is a taste of what will bring confidence once more.

Where do you put the napkin? "I think the side plate is the ideal position, if you are in a side plate situation." And, get this, "it's always nice to have a menu". Perhaps it confuses guests into leaving a

white sitting on the stylistic pre-plating-wise. "I've got some very personal, strong ideas about napkins. There is a swing away from starched napkins to napkins that are friendlier to use", though a strip of kitchen roll may be too friendly.

Where do you put the napkin? "I think the side plate is the ideal position, if you are in a side plate situation." And, get this, "it's always nice to have a menu". Perhaps it confuses guests into leaving a

white

white

white

white

Part

# The family secret is out

Should children conceived by donor insemination be told the truth about their birth, at the risk of exposing them to pain and prejudice? Ann Lloyd reports

**D**id you look sad like that?" was the question six-year-old Simon asked his Mum when they sat down to read his new book, *My Story*.

The picture Simon was curious about shows a couple sitting close together on a sofa and looking upset. The man's arm is placed tenderly around the woman's shoulders. On the opposite page it says "Mummy and Daddy tried for a long time to have a baby and they were very sad when no baby began to grow." It goes on to explain, in a way which a four to seven-year-old can understand, how a child is conceived by donor insemination.

The book is written as if the child in the story is the child reading the book. On the last page is an empty picture-frame for the child's own photograph, with the word "Me" underneath. Simon's photo, taken when he was four, is now in his book.

Both Simon and his two-year-old brother, Andrew, were conceived by donor insemination. His mother, Jane Offord, is one of the two authors of the book; the other is Angela Mays, who also has a son conceived by DI, Ben, who is three, and a daughter, Sally, seven months.

"Simon completely accepted the book," says Mrs Offord. "There was no big drama. He just thoroughly enjoyed reading it with me and was thrilled to bits that it was his very own true story." She believes that if you tell children the truth "with love and trust, they will accept it no matter how awful that truth might seem to other people".

When Simon went to school he wanted to take "his book" with him. Mrs Offord and her husband, Neil, allowed him to do so. "We'd already spoken to his teacher," says Mrs Offord. "It's important that if you do decide to tell a child conceived by DI the truth, you then put his teachers and close family and friends in the picture. They need to be prepared so they don't misunderstand or brush aside something he might say."

Mrs Offord and Mrs Mays met at the insemination clinic of the University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield, which is supervised by Dr Sheila Cooke. Dr Cooke places much emphasis on counselling at the clinic; information is not only freely given, but support is also offered. She points out that for many couples treatment can be quite stressful.

The idea for *My Story* originated when Dr Cooke visited Mrs Offord in hospital after Andrew's birth and showed her an Australian book aimed at older children conceived by DI. Mrs Offord, who is a primary school teacher, mapped out the first rough outline in 20 minutes, although it was nearly two years before the book was published.

Dr Cooke, who was involved in the book's production from the beginning, points out that it emphasises

**I believe that people have the right to know the truth about their origins. I just couldn't contemplate living with secrecy\***

"how much Mummy and Daddy loved each other and wanted a baby but could only achieve that with help from someone else".

Although Mrs Offord is good at communicating with children, she was nervous before she and Simon began to read *My Story*. So she can really appreciate "how difficult it must be for somebody with no experience of children to know where to start".

Both the Offords and the Mays decided before their children were conceived to tell them the truth. "I have a deep-seated belief that people have the right to know the truth about their origins," says Mrs Mays. "I just couldn't contemplate living with secrecy and, anyway, I consider it a poor basis for a loving, trusting relationship with a child."

However, the Offords and the Mays are the exception. Research indicates that between 66 per cent and 85 per cent of parents of children conceived by DI (about 1,250 a year in the UK) do not tell their children. Reasons given include the need to protect the child from being stigmatised; fear of prejudice on the part of relatives and friends; and a desire to keep confidential the husband's infertility, which is often, but not always, the cause of the problem.

She knows from personal experience that the fear of prejudice is not unfounded. The issue of disclosure has been a difficult one for Mrs Mays and her husband, Andy's, family, who would have preferred the matter to have been kept secret.

Another couple, Peter and Ann [not their real names], have decided not to tell their daughter, Ruth, now aged six, how she was conceived. They have heard of families turning against children conceived by DI and treating them as if they were alien. "No way is that going to happen to Ruth," says Peter.

One young woman conceived by DI was urged by her mother to "take the secret to the grave". But can anyone keep a secret for a lifetime? And what if a child finds out by accident and discovers its parents had not been honest?

Mrs Offord, in her work as a teacher, has come across one child, aged six, who was "totally devastated" to find out during a family argument that his Mum and Dad were not, in fact, his parents but his aunt and uncle.

And if you opt for secrecy, how do you cope with the anxiety, year in year out, that the child might find out by accident?

In 1981, the sociologist Elizabeth Snowden and her husband, Robert Snowden, professor of family studies at the University of Exeter, interviewed 56 couples who had children, then aged from newborn to four,

conceived by DI. Eight years later they went back and interviewed 30 of the couples again. "Only two out of the 30 couples had told their children how they were conceived. Many of the others had told friends and relatives and yet were quite certain their children would never find out by accident," says Mrs Snowden.

She feels there is a lot more chance of those children finding out than their parents realise. "Both adults and children can sense invisible barriers. Somehow the communication that something's different is there even in the silence."

Further research by the Snowdens indicates that what Mrs Offord has discovered with Simon is right: that if



In the open: Angela and Andy Mays with Ben and Sally, both conceived "with help from someone else"

children conceived by DI are told in a planned and loving way, they accept it quite easily.

Recent legislation, in the form of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, provides that in the future, adults, or 16-year-olds if marriage is contemplated, who believe they were born as a result of in vitro fertilisation or DI will be able to apply to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to find out whether its register indicates they were born as a result of either of these treatments. If so, and if they are planning to get married, they will also be able to discover whether they are related to the person they wish to marry.

Whatever happens in the future, both the Offords and the Mays feel strongly that the decision whether or not to tell belongs to the parents and to them alone. "If the book helps parents who might be against telling because they just don't know how to do it, then that's good," says Mrs Offord. "They'll be making a more informed decision. But it is their decision. We made the decision which was right for us. Other parents must do the same."

*My Story* (£3.95 including p&p) is available from Dr Sheila Cooke, University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield S3 7RE (phone 0742 766333, ext 320; fax 0742 752153).

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## Ashes to ashes, privet to privet

I never quite got the gist of bio-diversity, but I think it's the very thing I can't do. Maintaining ecological balance between different species.

I used to own a hand-some collection of house-plants, but when I got a child-substitute kitten, it swung from the tradescantia and killed off all the cacti. After seven spoilt years with us, when the first baby arrived, it packed its spotted handkerchief and moved in with a childless couple down the road.

Children, too, as a breed do not cohabit easily with other life forms. Forgive the flora: that expires from neglect. You are far too busy watering and potting your offspring to water and report your succulents. Fauna are a different issue. Children ren-pets.

I know that keeping pets is supposed to instruct the young in responsibility and affection. Research indicates that between 66 per cent and 85 per cent of parents of children conceived by DI (about 1,250 a year in the UK) do not tell their children. Reasons given include the need to protect the child from being stigmatised; fear of prejudice on the part of relatives and friends; and a desire to keep confidential the husband's infertility, which is often, but not always, the cause of the problem.

She knows from personal experience that the fear of prejudice is not unfounded. The issue of disclosure has been a difficult one for Mrs Mays and her husband, Andy's, family, who would have preferred the matter to have been kept secret.

When you have been



Davina Lloyd

grave and arrived at their back door. Less a lesson in death than an affirmation of resurrection.

Inevitably, when our own hamster pegged out, the children could not be convinced that this condition of stiff-legged inertia was terminal. The creature lay in state on viver in a margarine tub on top of the washing machine for days, while they waited for it to stop hibernating. Forbidden to use the machine out of respect, it was a moist point which of us would begin to hum first.

Enough to make you have kittens. And we did. A couple of years ago, I surrendered to the cat call. We approached the Cat Protection League, which advised us to take two, so that they could keep each other company.

The procedure for adoption was no less rigorous than that for human fostering. Our premises were inspected: we were introduced to the mother; I had to sign a contract undertaking to have them spayed and neutered respectively.

**D**epressing then, when we have lavished love and veterinary care to show our respect for the cats, that they show so little for other creatures. They chase spiders, torment moths and periodically bring in bits of passing pigeon. Two goldfish that I won accidentally throwing darts at a fair lived happily with us for years. They have just been snacked by two already well-fed felines.

The nearest I have come to establishing ecological harmony is with our stick insect. It teaches the children little of life, its existence being limited to assuming the immobile appearance of a stick. Nor much of reproduction: she manages to produce eggs and little twigs without the assistance of a partner.

It feeds on pieces of rose leaves or hedge, which it closely resembles. At our last home, we used to have to go out after dark to pinch bits of privet from neighbouring gardens. When it finally perishes, I shall continue to feed new pieces of hedge to old pieces of hedge — the last word in bio-uniformity — dust to dust, ashes to ashes, privet to privet.

## Parental rights, and wrongs

The Kingsley "child divorce" in Florida poses some awkward questions for British parents

**C**hildren", said Oscar Wilde, "begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them."

Gregory Kingsley has gone through all these stages by the age of 12. His mother, he said, "breaks promises". He agreed that he forgave and did not want to hurt her, but when the court in Florida rose, Gregory had made legal history by divorcing his Mom.

He joins his foster family for good, to become Gregory Russ, and after the extraordinary press and television exposure his case received, one can only wish him a decent measure of anonymity in which to grow up.

Children's rights campaigners are delighted. Some Republicans regard it as an assault on the family. But how do we British parents feel, watching from our own family fireplaces an ocean away?

Did we shudder at this evidence of the state's power to divide mother and child? Or did we rejoice at the implication that children should be listened to?

We have, after all, now achieved our own Children's Act, which some say undermines parental rights, and others welcome as a statement that no son or daughter is a chattel. In this country, the term "divorce" is unlikely to occur in the same context as the Kingsley case, but a child can apply for a residence order away from home, and prevent

his parents from contacting him. We look at Gregory Kingsley, and his mother, and the Russ family, with mixed and troubled feelings.

The child's face, at the moment he won the case, probably overwhelmed most onlookers with a sense of pure relief.

At times, Gregory had appeared depressingly priggish and unchildlike in the witness box, but just then, his tearful joy made him look ten years younger, a lost infant sighting his parents across a threatening landscape.

He is clearly best off where he is. But there were disquieting class undertones to the case, a sense of tidy people in suits siding with other tidy people in suits.

Gregory, not to put too fine a point on it, looked distinctly preppy after his year in the kind, affluent family of the lawyer George Russ. There he was in his little collar and tie. And there was his mother, a single parent, big and warm and chaotic and broke.

Evidence mounted against her, as it always does against those who live near the edge: she has a lover with a criminal record who allegedly beats her; she is said to have drunk heavily and used drugs (Gregory remembered marijuana on the hall table).

She admitted to long periods of not coping and depending on handouts from friends, and to leaving her children alone at night. Gregory was shunned into care, rarely visit-

ed, and in effect abandoned. The Russ family, on the other hand, is a stable, affluent two-parent household, able to help Gregory to fight his corner and hire a lawyer. They were always pretty likely to win.

Might not this scenario strike fear into any single parent forced to give up a child for a short time and seeing it fostered into an assertive and well-organised middle-class family? Or indeed, to a parent of rebellious teenagers who seemed to prefer spending their holidays, as so many do, at a friend's house? Suppose the other family actually offered your child a home?

And suppose your child got up in court and said: "Look, my parents have always preferred my sister; they packed me off to boarding school, which I hate. They never turn up for exams; they don't care..."

What if the alternative home offered less discipline and more wealth? Or was devoted to some proselytising sex?

I have known parents of a 15-year-old who were driven wild with worry at her infatuation with a family of Scientologists: suppose that child had the right to "divorce" her family and opt for them?

Older children, after all, are programmed to experiment and explore it is easy to imagine a court, composed of people who did not think much of your politics or

their behaviour, taking up their rebellion. Paranoid fancies perhaps: but they raise the spectre of an unthinkable loss: a bond forged in pregnancy and babyhood being broken by a cold judiciary.

On the other hand, the suffering of children at the hands of some parents has always been very great: who would not want to see David Copperfield legally divorcing Mr Murdstone, or any of the poor murdered infants of our

own time briskly removed from their hopeless or supine mothers? Perhaps the Gregory Kingsley case should be just a salutary reminder that there are limits on parental rights: that the less-favoured child is "whether they are worthy of a baby's love".

Rachel Kingsley was not, and her son was her judge. All our sons and daughters will be, one day. It just happened that Gregory had his say six years earlier than most.

**LIBBY PURVES**



Sweet sorrow: 12-year-old Gregory Kingsley wipes away a tear during his court case

hippyish clothes or whatever, packing up their rebellion.

own time briskly removed from their hopeless or supine mothers?

It is Fay Weldon crisply put in her novel *Darcy's Utopia*, it is not relevant when bad parents say — as they always do — that they love their babies. What is more relevant is "whether they are worthy of a baby's love".

Rachel Kingsley was not, and her son was her judge. All our sons and daughters will be, one day. It just happened that Gregory had his say six years earlier than most.

## Playgirl in pink

THE fuchsia-pink Jaguar convertible which was parked in front of the Savoy last week looked like the ideal car for the Princess of Wales, now that she's given up her Mercedes. But it had been designed for a long-legged blonde who is more internationally popular than the princess, and probably worth even more money: the Barbie doll.

Barbie's Jaguar is available for around £23 from toyshops around the country, one of many new developments the toy company, Mattel, was showing at the hotel.

Barbie also has a mobile — or "magic" — telephone which really talks (around £12, as part of a telephone table), "roller blade" skates (around £10.50), and her own hair styling gel, which comes with "Ultra Hair Barbie", whose tresses go down to her toes.

Whatever recessionary terrors strike toytown, Barbie, who is slightly older than the Princess of Wales, looks in no danger of toppling from her pedestal as one of the highest if not the highest — earning playgirls of the Western world.

### Blast off

**BLAST!** is a new, free newsletter for young asthmatics from the National Asthma Campaign. Sent to all secondary schools and available to individuals, the second issue includes a report on activity holidays for teenagers with asthma, a look at how the actor, Roger Lloyd Pack, came to terms with his asthma, and

the story of how Philip Schofield helped a 14-year-old fan through an attack. And some old wives' tales about asthma, like the one about exercise being bad for asthmatics, are debunked. For a copy write to: **BLAST!**, Communications Department, National Asthma Campaign, Providence House, Providence Place, London N1 0NT.

### Child's play

THE second, revised, edition of the *Postnatal Exercise Book* by obstetric physiotherapist Marjorie Polden and Barbara Whiteford, is published on Thursday by Frances Lincoln. The £7.95 paperback, with photographs by Sandra Lousada, has been endorsed by a number of child health experts, including Sheila Kitzinger.

It concentrates on the six-week period immediately after the birth, suggesting gentle but essential exercises which can be done, even in bed. It also shows how to exercise with your baby.

### Immitable

"ADULT Imitation" toys, as they are known, now take up two pages in the latest Argos catalogue, testifying to the growing sophistication of this type of plaything.

Notable additions are a mini microwave oven (£19.99) by Berchet, complete with rotating turntable, an almost life-sized "Telefax" centre by Pepte (with a "motorised push button paper feed", £14.75) and a miniature check-out till complete with state-of-the-art electronic scanner from Fisher Price (£21.99).

**VICTORIA MCKEE**



## FRESHERS WEEK

As the polytechnics become accustomed to their new status, John O'Leary forecasts new pressures in the academic world

**T**he class of '92 will be pioneers in a brave new world of higher education. The university system has altered beyond recognition since this year's intake applied for places.

Times have been changing in higher education for a number of years, and students have filled campuses as never before. The polytechnics led the way, competing with one another for growth and finally drawing the universities into the process.

Now that the polytechnics have been given the reward of university status, hierarchies are being redrawn. Teaching methods are being updated and improved to cater for the extra students, course structures are changing and old certainties about university life are disappearing.

On many, perhaps most, campuses the student experience of the 1990s bears little resemblance to that of previous decades. Lectures are often crowded, seminars are larger and individual tutorials are rare. The personal touch, which has always characterised British university life, is being sacrificed to the pressing need to give more people higher education.

John Patten, the education secretary, acknowledged the dangers in a speech at the

inauguration of Portsmouth University this summer, but insisted that Britain is still "light years away" from the impersonal style of Continental universities. Overseas students still marvel, he said, at the amount of contact they have with professors and senior staff when they take British courses.

Lecturers' and students' unions have yet to be convinced, but they recognise that the changes are permanent. The era of high-technology teaching and crowded timetables is upon them.

Nor are the changes all bad news. As well as offering more people the chance of higher education, the expansion has focused much-needed attention on teaching methods and encouraged more variety in the range of courses on offer.

Degree classifications have actually risen, to the point at which Nigel Forman, the higher education minister, felt moved to warn polytechnic directors, at their final conference in Edinburgh this month, to beware the sort of controversy that has engulfed schools.

The higher education



Studying the form: computer sciences at the new University of Westminster, which was formerly a polytechnic

world would be very short-sighted", he said. "If it did not look across at the public debate on GCSEs and A levels, and see the warning of what can happen if doubts arise about educational standards. Indeed, in some respects the higher education world is particularly at risk from such

criticism, since the available data suggests both a dramatic rise in student numbers and rising proportions of first-class and upper second-class degrees."

The universities, both new and old, are collaborating in a new system of quality assurance to calm such fears. The

new funding councils, which will allocate higher education budgets, are also monitoring the quality of courses, with the aid of people who have transferred from Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Although the independent scrutiny of the inspectors and the Council for National Academic Awards

will be lost, the traditional universities will never have experienced such attention.

The new scrutineers will have a wide brief, because the expansion of the university system has brought with it new kinds of course. Not only have distance education and part-time courses increased greatly,

real terms for teaching. Keele, at the other extreme, had its teaching budget increased by a third, but was given only 2.5 per cent more for research.

Mr Forman, in his Edinburgh speech, spelt out the specialisation message once more. "I am not saying that there should be no competition at all between universities," he said. "That would not be a healthy market for students. What I am suggesting is that there is little to be gained by institutions trying to compete in everything."

But there can be no certainty about the pay disputes that are looming throughout higher education. Clerical workers in the new universities and lecturers in both kinds of institutions are threatening action over deadlocked pay claims. The class of '92 may have an early introduction to the practical side of industrial relations.

There may be trouble ahead, too, in student unions, if the government carries out its policy of making membership voluntary. Proposals are due before the end of the academic year, and the threat to both the national and local unions is such that stern resistance must be a certainty.

Life in the new higher education world is going to be different, but it should not be dull.

## Managing time is a key skill



Hats off to high fashion at Westminster University

**T**here are many conflicting demands on an undergraduate's time. Hobbies, societies, socialising — and for those in self-catering accommodation, shopping and cooking — all compete with academic work. Becoming a student offers the greatest opportunity to make new friends, and they are around 24 hours a day. All this comes as students become responsible for planning their time themselves, in most cases for the first time.

Life suddenly changes. Students are responsible for their own learning, and can take a considerable time to adjust when they find that nobody is chasing them for absence or work not delivered.

In some establishments, arts lectures are almost entirely voluntary. Some students go to only three or four a week.

Seminars and tutorials, on the other hand, are compulsory, and many students underestimate the time needed to read and prepare for discussion of topics in small groups.

Science students, by contrast, may feel overwhelmed by a heavy timetable of lectures and practical classes, and suffer different pressures.

Time management comes more easily to some than others. Many students find difficulty in coming to terms with new study methods. Many are embarrassed to ask lecturers for help. To counter this problem, some institutions run classes in study skills.

Anne Wyatt, the study skills counsellor at Exeter University, offers personal tuition. "I do not believe in groups," Mrs Wyatt says. "Each student has individual problems." She stresses that the majority make the adjustment, but that for those who do not even a few sessions can be beneficial.

In addition to skills — helping students to see where an essay has gone wrong, for instance, or how to take notes — she deals with time management itself: "I can help

As many students work too much as too little

them to arrive at an effective balance between work and leisure. They have to sort out the demands of a course realistically, and learn that when a lecturer says, "You might like to follow this up", that does not mean "Read every book on the list. I see as many students who are working too hard as are doing too little."

Everybody needs to relax. One way of spending leisure time is in student clubs and societies, which are often subsidised by the students' union, and have annual subscriptions of £3 to £5. Most institutions offer freshers a good variety, ranging from sporting to political, from religious to creative.

Sheffield University lists more than 150. Sussex has a Green Society, paragliding, women's soccer and cognacs.

Societies can be time-consuming, however, and many students advise neophytes not to succumb to too many representatives at the freshers' fair. It is preferable to sign up for one or two only, as it is always possible to join others later.

Societies and clubs can have hidden benefits. Eric Whitington, the careers adviser at the City of London Polytechnic, soon to have the title of university, points out that membership of one or two can be a help when compiling a CV in the final year.

Any student whose career ideas lean towards the media can, for instance, gain valuable experience by working on the campus radio or magazine.

I often say to would-be journalists, "What experience have you had?", and they look at me blankly. If the college does not have such things, why not try hospital radio?

It is not just writing or on-air experience that can be useful. Selling advertising space for the union handbook or making contacts with outside organisations can help you convince a future employer of your potential.

BERYL DIXON

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## Bank on having to borrow

Even the most prudent student will find the grant is not enough

**T**he four main sources of income for most students are grants, part-time earnings, loans and parental contributions, *Beryl Dixon* writes. Assuming that parents pay their share in full — and the National Union of Students estimates that about 30 per cent do not — the average income would be about £3,000 a year. Even with efficient budgeting, most are unable to live on that sum, unless it is to cover term-time expenditure only and parents supply food and accommodation during vacations.

Grants are means-tested, and the rates — £2,845 for students living and studying in London, £2,265 outside the capital and £1,795 for those living in the parental home — are reduced on a sliding scale calculated on the joint parental income. The amount by which the grant is reduced forms the "parental contribution".

Grants do not increase annually. They have remained frozen since 1990, the year in which the student loan scheme was introduced. On the other hand, the total that may be borrowed under the student loan scheme is reviewed annually, and loans are not subject to a means test.

The maximum amount for a full year in London is £330 and for a final year £605. Outside London, the figures are £715 and £525 respectively, and for students living at home £570 and £415. The final-year rate is lower as it excludes that year's summer vacation.

Students sign a contract with the Student Loans Company, which arranges for application forms to be issued at their places of study. Repayment is deferred until the April after graduation, and is then made in monthly instalments over a maximum of five years, or seven if the course lasted for five years or more. Interest is calculated every year, using the retail price index. The rate for the year beginning this September is

Student loans are not subject to a means test

differ from bank to bank. This year's include reduced-price driving lessons, free rail cards and £20 in cash and vouchers to be spent in selected shops. They are worth having but not at the expense of better services. Students should check overdraft limits, the nearness of branches, including post offices, and the availability of cash dispensers, before falling for a one-off £20 gift.

The initial reluctance to take out student loans seems to have decreased. The loans company says 260,000 students applied last year. Many did so towards the end of the year.

Only one application may be made each year, and the closing date is July 31. This year's freshers should apply earlier in the year and let the money earn interest. Why not take advantage of a sum that could be sitting in a savings account?

Margaret Winnett, the mother of two student sons, offers the following advice to parents: "It was reassuring for

3.9 per cent. However, anyone whose income is less than 85 per cent of national average earnings may defer payments for a year at a time.

On average, students end their courses £1,000 in debt, so some form of borrowing is almost essential.

It is equally important to get to know one's bank manager or, in most cases, student adviser. All the banks offer students free overdraft facilities up to a certain figure. After that, even preferential rates for agreed overdrafts may be between 11 and 16 per cent.

All the banks and some building societies are out to woo students. They are, after all, potential customers for life. Most of them offer free overdraft facilities of £300-£400 for the whole course, but this must be checked, as one or two offer it only during the first year. Some offer credit cards with no annual charge, but the National Union of Students says these are much less popular with students now than during the consumer boom.

Then comes a range of enticements to open an account, which

Students soon learn to economise by buying second-hand books and clothes and making use of student discounts

and discounts. Your union can give you a list, and they range from food shops to clothes shops and hairdressers.

Avoid reterories. You can make a much cheaper packed lunch.

Drink at the union bar. It is about 30 per cent cheaper.

Buy food and housekeeping essentials in bulk.

Mr Clarke says that he and the friends sharing a house

with him in their final year could have economised further by cooking together, but chose not to do so. However, they did club together to buy a washing-machine, saving on frequent laundrette bills. Their savings were made by turning off the heating and hot water only when absolutely necessary.

Margaret Winnett, the mother of two student sons, offers the following advice to parents: "It was reassuring for

Beryl Dixon offers those about to go to college some tips for financial survival on a slim budget

## No need to starve if you watch the pennies



Bargains for both work and leisure: many campuses have their own bars and bookshops (such as this at Queen Mary and Westfield College)

### Students soon learn to economise by buying second-hand books and clothes and making use of student discounts

us to be able to pay our eldest son's hall bill directly for food and accommodation. He had a bed to sleep on and food to eat from Monday to Friday. Money mismanagement inevitably meant he starved at weekends."

She adds: "Give them a supply of phonecards and stamped, addressed envelopes, in the hope that they might use them. Our request to phone home, though, had less success than those to ET."

One essential item in any student's budget must be insurance. The best advice is to leave very expensive items at home, but even so, students are bound to take possessions of considerable value with them, and these need to be protected.

Police costs vary according to the area and type of accommodation. Companies assess risk using postcodes. Unfortunately, students in flats and houses often live in high-risk areas, where rates are higher.

Students are advised to shop around for the best insurance quotation, but they will find that several companies have actually pulled out of the student market because of heavy losses.

Most students are insured with Endsleigh Insurance Services, which arranges private accommodation cover for £33 to £99, depending on the area. £26 for those living in hall anywhere in the country, or much less if students are at institutions which arrange block policies. The London School of Economics, for example, adds £10 to its hall fees and covers every student auto-

matically through an Endsleigh block policy. All policies should be checked to see whether they include bicycles and other high-risk items.

This is how three students managed last year. Figures are for term-time expenditures only.

Helen Gunn, a first-year student at University College, Aberystwyth, had a total income, which came from the same three sources as Miss Gunn's, was £4,025. He spent £1,430 on renting a room in a shared house for 52 weeks, £1,000 on food and housekeeping, £240 on electricity, the telephone and water, and £20 on books. He, too, had three return journeys between home and university, which cost £30, and spent nothing on daily travel. Social travel came to £50, entertainment and miscellaneous outlays to £900, and clothes £200. His total expenditure was £2,435.

Andrew Clarke was in his third year last year at Bristol University. His total income, which came from the same three sources as Miss Gunn's, was £4,025. He spent £1,430

on renting a room in a shared house for 52 weeks, £1,000 on food and housekeeping, £240 on electricity, the telephone and water, and £20 on books. He, too, had three return journeys between home and university, which cost £30, and spent nothing on daily travel. Social travel came to £50, entertainment and miscellaneous outlays to £900, and clothes £200. His total expenditure was £2,435.

It is immediately apparent that a student has more chance of keeping his or her head above water financially if no return daily journeys are necessary between accommodation and college. Furthermore, none of the three was living in London, where costs are higher.

Miss Mason, whose terms lasted 34 weeks in all, rather than the usual 30, says: "I am surprised at how well I've managed to survive financially, but I thank my lucky stars that the cost of living is so low in Wakefield."

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## Eat cheaply but eat well

Learning to cook even simple meals is a vital skill when money is tight

**H**ealth education has made young people more aware of what constitutes a healthy diet than the older generation, *Beryl Dixon* writes. However, faced with limited resources and frequently giving food a low priority, they are liable to fall into the trap of surviving on a mixture of junk and fast food — unless they can cook.

Students are not going to go in for elaborate and time-consuming recipes. Nor will they have vast amounts of cooking equipment. Storage space may be at a premium, and they may be fighting for their turn to use communal cookers. What they need, therefore, is some simple knowledge of cookery and a selection of nutritious recipes that can be prepared with the minimum of fuss.

Meals can be prepared quickly, and although it is often cheaper to use fresh ingredients, tins and packets should not be despised. Anyone with two saucepans and a can-opener can rustle up a nutritious meal from a tin of tuna, canned tomatoes, herbs and pasta in 15 minutes.

Pasta and rice are two cheap, filling student standbys which can accompany a variety of meals of differing degrees of sophistication. So can



Kitchen wisdom: Polly (left) and Tamsin Mason seek out end-of-day bargains

jacket potatoes, if time permits or the hall kitchen has a microwave. Many students say that their best going-away present was an electric sandwich-maker, which provides a filling snack in minutes.

Many house-sharing students cook together, which means that they can take full advantage of bulk buying. Tamsin Mason, a third-year student at King Alfred College, shares a house in Winchester, where living expenses are quite high. She and her friends have their own ways of making ends meet. They make bulk purchases of supermarket's own-brand goods and buy fresh produce as often as possible, having learnt to patronise the open-air market

towards the end of the day when traders reduce prices sharply. Moreover, Miss Mason is a vegetarian, and maintains that this helps. "You can cook a cheap veggie chilli in 15 minutes," she says.

Students who already know how to cook have a head start. Some are lucky enough to have learnt at home or to have attended a school — which taught them — such as Marlins Boys' School in Stroud, where sixth-formers are quite high. She and her friends have their own ways of making ends meet. They make bulk purchases of supermarket's own-brand goods and buy fresh produce as often as possible, having learnt to patronise the open-air market

teach them to cook a decent meal at half the cost of buying one, and to be able to prepare food in even the most cramped kitchen.

Is it too late for all that?

There are two excellent books which could make good Christmas presents. A generation learned to cook in the 1960s from *Katharine Whateley's Cooking in a Bedsit* (still available, Penguin, £4.99). More recent on the scene is *Grub on a Grunt* by Cas Clarke (Headline Publishing, also £4.99). Neither assumes any previous knowledge. Both contain quick, healthy and cheap recipes, plus lists of essential store-cupboard ingredients and necessary utensils.



## MANAGEMENT

## The forgotten children

Special funds to care for young refugees are lacking, writes Nicky Willmore

**P**ublicans and retired headmasters crossing Europe in their well-meaning way to save children from the former Yugoslavia have given local authorities an attack of the jitters. At worst, councils fear a repeat of summer 1990, when the unexpected arrival in London of 200 unaccompanied Eritrean children exposed for the first time a yawning gap in official policy.

Many councils could not cope. All still say the absence of policy and resources compromises their ability to comply with both UK law and United Nations conventions in caring for refugee children.

Immigration records suggest about 250 unaccompanied refugee children are in the UK today, mostly from the Horn of Africa. The numbers are minute but the needs of the children who make it to the UK alone are specific and expensive.

The children are confused when they have their first brush with immigration officials. "Many have had traumatic experiences involving seeing relatives killed or tortured or have themselves experienced abuse," says Terry Barnard, the social services director at Kensington and Chelsea in west London. "The care provided must take account of these experiences as well as their health, cultural, religious and linguistic needs."

Hillingdon, home to Heathrow and responsible for the "parish of origin" for many unaccompanied children, are



Looking lost in a foreign land: children who have fled from Somalia share a room in Haringey, north London

riving, has provided services to 111 refugee children in the past two years and has 36 on its books now. The annual bill is £995,810, the amount by which the council's budget exceeded its statutory limit this year.

Kensington and Chelsea, on a direct line from Heathrow, puts the cost of caring for 28 Eritrean children at £500,000, and Haringey estimates care and support costs are £40,000 per child. Yet despite a protracted and unequalled campaign, the 25 London authorities and a fewshire counties that care for refugee children have failed to convince the government of the need for a specific grant.

Although few shirk their responsibilities, none can provide care lightly. Disputes between councils about who is immediately responsible for specific children have occa-

sionally ended in the courts, as in the case of the London boroughs of Islington and Hounslow. One child flew four times between London and Northern Ireland before a decision was made.

In addition, government guidance on policy and best practice has been two years in the drafting and is still not published. Ros Finlay, the Refugee Council's social services adviser, says this has delayed improvements to the limited range of skills, knowledge and resources available for the children's care needs.

**T**he Refugee Council has persistently argued that a central project is vital to complement the work of councils. "A prime task of the project would be to strengthen existing refugee community groups, who are best placed to

care for the children, as well as their links with local authorities," Ms Finlay says.

The project would prevent a repeat of the swamping of resources by the influx of Eritrean children and would solve councils' everyday difficulties in establishing links with community groups.

These difficulties, particularly acute if there is no established refugee community in the area, means children often receive inadequate care. Mike Taylor, Hillingdon's social services director, admits to temporary anomalies — for example, where a Tamil child is cared for by a Somali adult, or where Ethiopian children live alongside Eritreans.

Of 242 children surveyed by the Refugee Council, 70 had to wait up to three months before a local authority responded and at least 50 were moved more than three times

in their first three months. At least 50 children were placed where they had no contact with people from their cultural or linguistic background, jeopardising their ability to take a place in their community in the UK or at home and the effectiveness of any eventual family reunion.

Brian Jones, the social services assistant secretary at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says: "Today's ease of transport and communications means that the problem of unaccompanied children arriving here as refugees will not go away."

Mr Taylor says he cannot spend £1 million a year on refugee children without hurting other services. "Other than the odd expression of concern that child refugees are being brought in, the silence of government departments on this is deafening," he says.

## Good charities begin with training

**W**ho controls Britain's 180,000 charities? And is this done effectively? The question is worth asking — and as a matter of urgency — because the voluntary sector is playing an ever more critical role in society.

During the 1960s, many people believed that charities would become marginal, even irrelevant, by provision of state services. Instead,

the opposite has happened: there has been an ideological shift away from state intervention.

The resources charities control are greater than most people realise. The turnover of the voluntary sector is at present £17 billion, which is 3 per cent of the gross national product and more than the turnover of the agricultural sector.

In law, the charities are controlled by the million or so people who serve as voluntary trustees yet there is evidence that they lack the training and preparation to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

According to today's report by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, two-thirds of all trustees in England and Wales are unaware that they are trustees at all; only between a third and a half of them receive information about their organisation's role and their responsibilities as trustees; only a fifth receive proper induction to charity work; and less than a sixth are given training directly related to their work.

The dangers of letting this continue are considerable. Crises in the voluntary sec-

tor, such as the recent bankruptcy of War on Want, bring the governance of charities increasingly into the public eye.

In the private sector, the changing relationship between a charity's executive managers and the board is a key. Large and medium-sized charities have always relied on paid staff, but during the past decade,

**Charity trustees know too little about their job, says Winifred Tumim**



managerialism has penetrated the sector.

These managers are responsible for large budgets sometimes more than £50 million annually. They speak the language of the business school and have their own career agendas. Yet they are accountable to part-time unpaid trustees with widely varying abilities and little or no preparation for the work. Small wonder

that trustees can be hoodwinked, or that some professional managers are accused of "capturing" organisations they are paid to manage.

The solution is fairly clear. In the face of such professionalism, trustees need to know their legal and managerial responsibilities *vis-à-vis* the paid staff. Interference by the trustees with day-to-day operations or, on the other hand an abrogation of responsibility can undermine the running of any charity.

Training in the widest sense — including all forms of advice and support — is needed if trustees are to retain control of an organisation's affairs. If they do not keep abreast of the new managerial ethos and supervise the work of paid staff, the mission of the organisation can be all too easily subverted.

A final point is worth making. The report suggests that trusteeship is, in the main, a middle-class preserve. But for a much wider section of the population, trusteeship may be an important form of active citizenship. Training should take account of this and help to increase the pool of talent available to charities giving genuinely equal opportunities.

• The author is the chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the working party responsible for the report, "On Trust: Increasing the Effectiveness of Charity Trustees and Management Committees", published today by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Regent's Wharf, 8 AH Sains Street, London N1 9RL, at £3.95, including postage and packing.

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

## Assistant Treasurer/Financial Planner

Salary: c £26k - £28k p.a. + PRP + lease car

We are looking for a qualified accountant to provide high level financial input to the work of our Performance Services Section, with detailed input to the development and implementation of the Region's overall financial structure and allowing for the development of the Finance Division.

This joint post is split equally between the two Divisions and provides a tremendous opportunity to gain an overview of both finance and performance measurement within the NHS whilst working in stimulating and challenging areas.

You will be highly motivated and have at least three years post qualification experience including the management and assessment of subordinate staff. You will be able to think innovatively, develop new ideas and communicate effectively at the highest levels.

Informal enquiries are welcome and any interested candidates should contact: Fiona McNamee, Head of Performance Services, on 0181 292 4532, Ext. 45374 or Trevor Ferrier, Acting Director of Finance, on Ext. 45065.

Applications should be by CV, indicating present salary and including 2 referees who may be contacted prior to interview, and should be returned to the Division of Human Resources by 2 October 1992. For a job description and information pack please contact the Division of Human Resources, Northgate, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 1RL, telephone 081 276 1505 (24 hour answering service) quoting ref. 30092.

This Authority operates a No Smoking Policy.



## CARROLL FOUNDATION

IRISH HISTORY INSTITUTE  
PART TIME RESEARCHER  
WESTMINSTER

Prestigious Institute based in Westminster researching Irish history seeks to appoint part time research person for a wide range of postgraduate and secondary source research programmes for an existing substantial Irish archive.

Ideally suited for a person who can function with computers and a flexi-time arrangement.

c £5,000

Please send full CV to Sarah Parsons, 24 Stafford Place, London SW1.

PROFESSIONAL  
BENEVOLENT  
ASSOCIATION

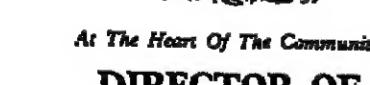
Are you caring, sympathetic, flexible in attitude, probably aged 45+?

Permanent position available for such a person in small team in city based charitable organisation to help assess/review applications for assistance, prepare management/statutory accounts, forecasts, safeguard charity's assets, (investments and some properties) and help in operating P.C. based income record systems.

Good remuneration, pension for 35 hour week.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full C.V. to:

The Secretary, C.A.B.A.  
301 Salisbury House, London Wall,  
London, EC2M 5QQ

DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY LIAISON/  
NURSE ADVISER

c. £28,000 p.a. plus PRP plus Benefits

Scunthorpe Community Health Unit has applied for third wave trust status and is now looking for a Senior Nurse professional to join the Unit's designate Board of Executives.

You should possess a relevant community nursing qualification and have substantial managerial experience at a senior level within Community Health Services.

You will be expected to provide strategic direction and leadership for community nursing services, and lead the Trust's Care in the Community Initiative, liaising with other local agencies and groups. As such you should demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills and an imaginative approach to the management of change.

Responsibilities will also include the leadership of marketing, market research, communications and public relations initiatives.

Scunthorpe and the surrounding picturesque countryside is still an area of low living costs with easy motorway access to other parts of the country. A generous relocation package is available.

For an informal discussion, please contact Mr R.W. Powell, Chief Executive (Designate), Tel: (0724) 282282 ext. 3564.

For an information pack, please contact Mr G. Armitage, Human Resources Manager, Broomby Hospital, East Common Lane, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN16 1QQ. Tel: (0724) 282282 ext. 3567.

Closing date: 9th October 1992. (729A)

Interviews to be held on 28th and 29th October 1992.

Councils must not use the new local tax to pry into personal affairs or to ask for irrelevant information

**D**ata protection laws had been on the statute book for half a decade before the community charge, better known as poll tax, forced their first test in the courts. Now the arrival of the council tax has again raised the issue of what councils are entitled to know about their tax payers.

Under the rates system, local authorities needed to know little more than the address of a property, the name of its occupier and its rateable value. Nobody dreamed of asking ratepayers personal questions unless of course they applied for a rebate.

The poll tax, levied personally on 37 million adults in England alone, required councils to compile a computerised register of everybody aged over 18 in their areas.

For the first time, every adult had to provide personal details to the local council. Even before the first poll tax bills went out in March 1990, the Data Protection Registrar had warned councils about the questions they were asking.

Before the year was out, the Data Protection Tribunal had been convened for its first sitting to deal with the problems caused by the poll tax.

Counsel for the Data Protection Registrar told the hearing that more than a quarter of the 403 charging authorities in England had asked questions on subjects they were not entitled to know about.

By the time the case came to court in September, only 14 of the 140 councils which had asked questions later ruled "irrelevant and excessive" by the tribunal remained obdurate.

Public suspicions about the

already unpopular poll tax registers were deepened by the disclosure that councils had been asking householders what type of home they occupied. Some had even asked about marital status.

The councils that asked about property type said they needed to know in order to discover which houses had been converted into flats. The tribunal disagreed and ordered the information to be struck from the register.

Aware of the harm that had been done to the poll tax

by the keeping of registers, ministers hurried to assure the public that the new council tax, which comes into operation on April 1 next year, would require nothing of the kind.

Heated parliamentary exchanges followed, in which Labour MPs said that less than those liable to pay the council tax and the collection of income details from those eligible for rebates would lead to the keeping of registers in all but name.

The Opposition complained that, far from clarifying the issue, the government's assertion that councils will not need to keep registers only clouded matters further.

The poll tax legislation gave a clear power to collect and hold certain types of information, but local authorities will have to rely on their general powers for collecting data about householders for the new council tax.

The lists have been drawn up by the Inland Revenue valuation office, and will be available for inspection at town halls around Christmas time. They show no more than the address of each property and the band to which it is allocated. Councils will need to add the name of the person liable to pay the tax for bills can no longer legally be addressed to the "occupier".

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# Who will the journalists blame now?

**Peter Brown**  
reflects on the  
end of one era  
and the start of  
another at  
*The Times*

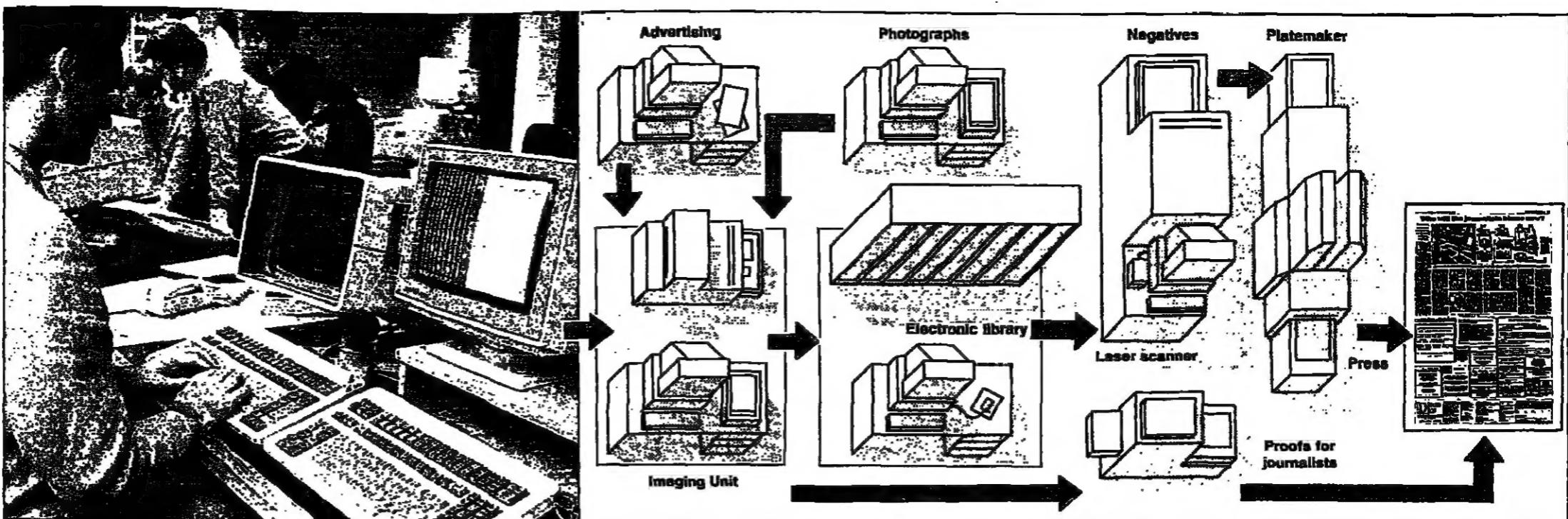
**F**or just over a week *The Times* has been type-set electronically. No human hand has come between mine and yours, as you hold this page, save those of the plate room hands and pressmen. The compositors have gone.

The compositors, or comps, were the people who for two centuries took the words of the *Times* journalists and turned them into pages. The type was set by hand (two centuries ago), or by Linotype machine (a century ago), or by computer (since 1982). Then the compositors corrected it, working with production journalists clapping red-lined proofs.

Now most journalists type their work into word processors, while others design pages on a screen, and all corrections are done by the same method. It is a streamlined system that would have rejoiced the heart of John Walter, who first published *The Daily Universal Register* in 1785, changing the name to *The Times* three years later. He started the paper partly to exploit the invention of a compositor, Henry Johnson, who believed that time and labour could be saved by printing several letters together instead of separately. The idea didn't work very well, and Walter began a famous tradition: he blamed the printers.

"I have been severely injured by the inattention, neglect and ignorance of others," he said, a cry that until last week could be heard nightly on the sub-editor's desks on *The Times*. Henceforth they must blame themselves.

*The Times* has always looked for more efficient production, a drive not always condoned by the compositors, who lost no time, for example, in lampooning John Walter and his "logographic type". They were a tough, well-



The new system: stories are typed in word processors (left), while pages are designed on another screen. The two systems are merged, pictures and advertisements are inserted in an imaging unit, and the pages are proofed and corrected. The electronic library is the nerve centre of the operation. A laser scanner then converts the information into a negative the size of this page and from this an aluminium plate is made for the press.

organised bunch with a thousand internal rules. Benjamin Franklin had come up against them when he worked in London as a compositor in 1725. Refusing to pay a drinks levy, he had "many little pieces of private malice practised on me". What the other comps did was to transpose his letters while he wasn't looking, like us. Indeed the scatological transposition of the word "this" was at the heart of many *Times* disputes. An oversight, the comp would say.

One of the better known oversights was the affair of Harcourt's speech in 1882. The *Times* compositors were in dispute with the management and the gentlemen of London, in their clubs, were shocked to learn from the Thunderer's report that Lord Harcourt had told the House "I felt inclined for a bit of \*\*\*" (my asterisks). It lasted for one edition, and G. Price, the comp responsible, was sacked after an enquiry.

It would be wrong to suggest that *The Times* always regarded its compositors as untrustworthy. For much of its history, the reverse was true. "There is probably no industry in which the relationship be-

tween staffs and management is so satisfactory and amicable", said one authority in 1935. Barry Doyley, who was a comp in *The Times* in the 1950s, wrote: "We still considered ourselves an extension of the Astor family."

But anyone who types thousands of words an hour is bound to make mistakes. Now, as from last week, readers can be sure that their errors come fresh from the keyboard of a writer or sub-editor (the Editor, by tradition, never fails). Some, indeed, may be

mistakes that a sharp-eyed comp would have spotted — even sub-editors have been saved like that — and there are few on *The Times* who will not miss the humour and drama of the "stone". Not much fun showing "Hold the front page" at a computer screen.

The stone really disappeared when *The Times* transferred to photo-composition. It was originally just that, a slab of stone, and on its perfectly flat surface a million metal lines of type had been assembled and locked into place by stub hands (comps) at Printing

House Square, and then at Gray's Inn Road. The process was simple enough to make sense to any visitor who had played with a John Bull printing set. From the comp, nevertheless, it required dexterity, muscle and patience.

For the production journalist in the days of hot metal there was a sense of satisfaction in working with a good comp, in the inky din and emotional heat of the composing room, and producing a corrected page by its deadline. A good comp never argued about correcting the same

paragraph a dozen times. He could tell at a glance where the next slug (line of type) should go, and how many drops (slivers of lead) he needed to pack out a column. He could combine speed with accuracy. If the comps were the Sherpa Tensings, the oppressed sub-editor could sometimes see himself as a Hillary. To work with a bad one, of course, was murder, a sentiment frequently aired and always returned.

This symbiotic relationship was weakened by photo-composition. The first photo-setting machinery arrived in

relatively few hiccups. For Norbury this was the fulfilment of a dream he had in the late 1970s, when he envisaged that journalists would one day control the written word in their own paper. "The technology has evolved over the last decade to enable this to happen," he says, "but after more than 30 years working in composing rooms I found it quite emotional. This was the end of a great era."

With that era died a language, a lexicon of devils, chaps, slugs and sticks, nomads, pies, quoins and chaises, clickers and randoms, whackers and waygooses. In its place we have the dongs, log-ons, macros and acronyms of computerspeak.

Some old words remain, soprano to the older hacks. There are still 72 "points" to the inch on the screens on which this page was designed. There is still "lead" below this line. But I sense that my screen would prefer to deal in centimetres. It certainly doesn't swear or joke and it doesn't spout mistakes.

It's a good machine in its way, but some of us will miss the comps, damn them.

• The author is features production editor of *The Times*



Old tech: a "hot-metal" page assembled by compositors in 1973; and a "bromide" page being pasted up in 1984



TEL: 071 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

ESTABLISHED 1785

FAX: 071 481 9313

### COMPANY NOTICES

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TENDER  
BY THE CANADIAN  
RAILWAY COMPANY  
Copies of the Standard of December 31 1991 are available and may be obtained from the office during normal business hours.  
D.R. Keast  
Directorate  
22-65 Threadneedle Square  
London EC2R 5BN GPO

### CONTRACTS & TENDERS

BRAZILIAN NAVAL  
COMMISSION IN EUROPE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TENDER  
19/9/92  
The Commission has issued a  
tender notice for the supply of  
ENGINE PARTS. The latest date  
for submission of qualifying documents  
is 15/10/92. The tender notice  
and the conditions of tender  
will be available from the  
Commission's registered office in  
London. The tender notice  
is dated 28th September 1992.

### LEGAL NOTICES

INCLOS LTD  
FLUSCO, PENRITH, CUMBERLAND  
The company has appointed a  
receiver and manager to its assets.  
The receiver will be entitled to  
receive payment in full or in part  
within the weeks of the  
resolution, subject to the  
Court's order. The receiver  
will be appointed by the  
Court on 17th October 1992.

MARTIN'S PRESS LIMITED  
An Administrator has been appointed  
to the company. The date of  
appointment is 18th September 1992.  
Name of person appointed the  
Administrator is Martin's Press  
Administrator. Receiver's name  
is John Martin. Address of  
receiver is 200 Whitechapel High Street,  
London E1 3BN.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986  
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TENDER  
pursuant to section 98 of the  
Insolvency Act 1986 that a receiver  
named Company will be held at  
the office of the receiver, 200 Whitechapel  
High Street, London E1 3BN on 2nd  
October 1992 at 2.00 pm for the  
tendering of tenders for the  
liquidation of the assets of the  
Company. The receiver's name  
is Louis Diamond, a liquidator  
of 23/38 Station Gardens,  
London EC1N 8DX. All tenders  
will be accepted and the  
information concerning  
the receiver will be as may  
reasonably require.

### LEGAL NOTICES

THE SUPERFOOD AND WINE  
COMPANY LIMITED  
Notice is hereby given that as an  
undertaking of the above-named Company  
held at 27 Lower Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1X 9RL on 23rd September  
1992 a Special Resolution was  
passed to transfer £211,294 out of the Company's  
current account in the amount of £211,294  
to the account of John Walter  
from the Company to the  
benefit of the shareholders.

AMERICAN OAK CRACK houses  
manufactured in the USA. For  
the period from 1st October 1992 to  
31st March 1993, the price of  
one house will be £10,000.

OLD & NEW: Works, French & even  
more stone. Restorers, floor tiles,  
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